

ARCHITECTURE DEPARTMENT

CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

MASTER OF ARCHITECTURE PROGRAMME 1997-98

DESIGN REPORT

**LEGCO TRANSFORMATION - THE EXTENSION OF
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BUILDING AND DEMOCRATIC
SPACE**

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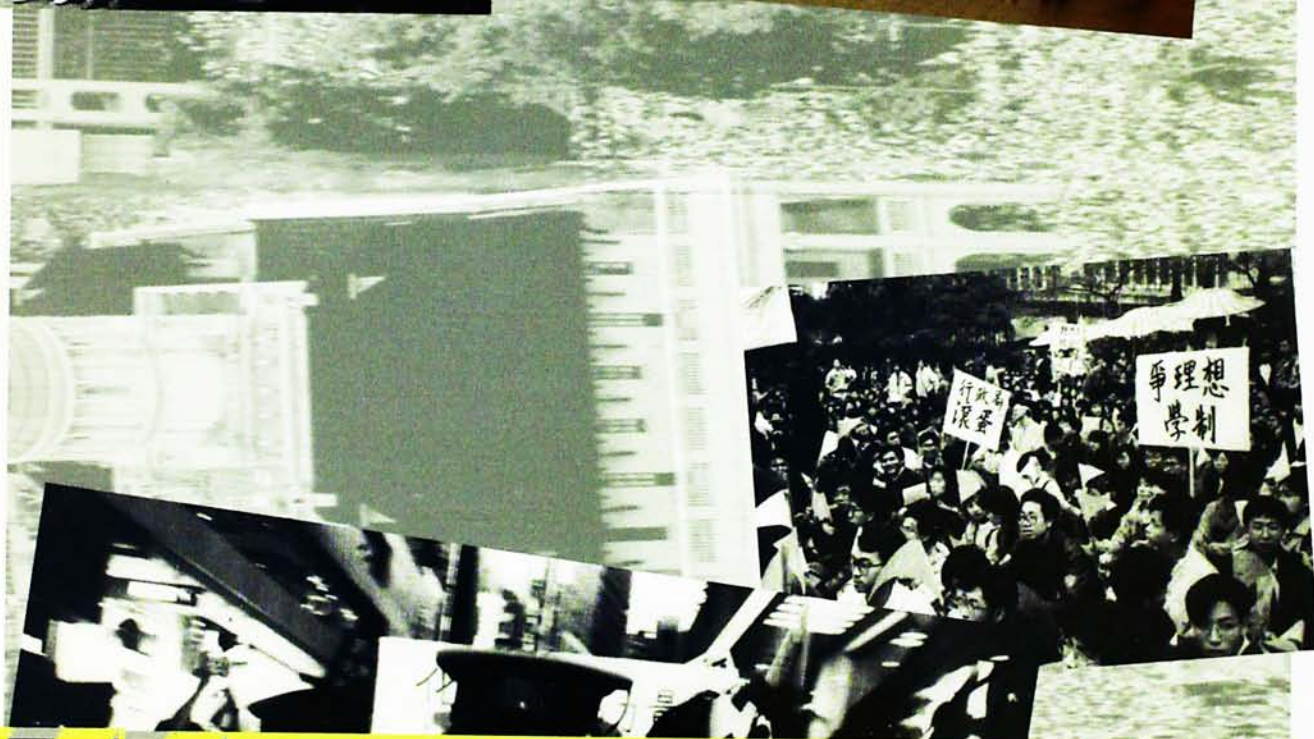
April 1998



Legco Transformation

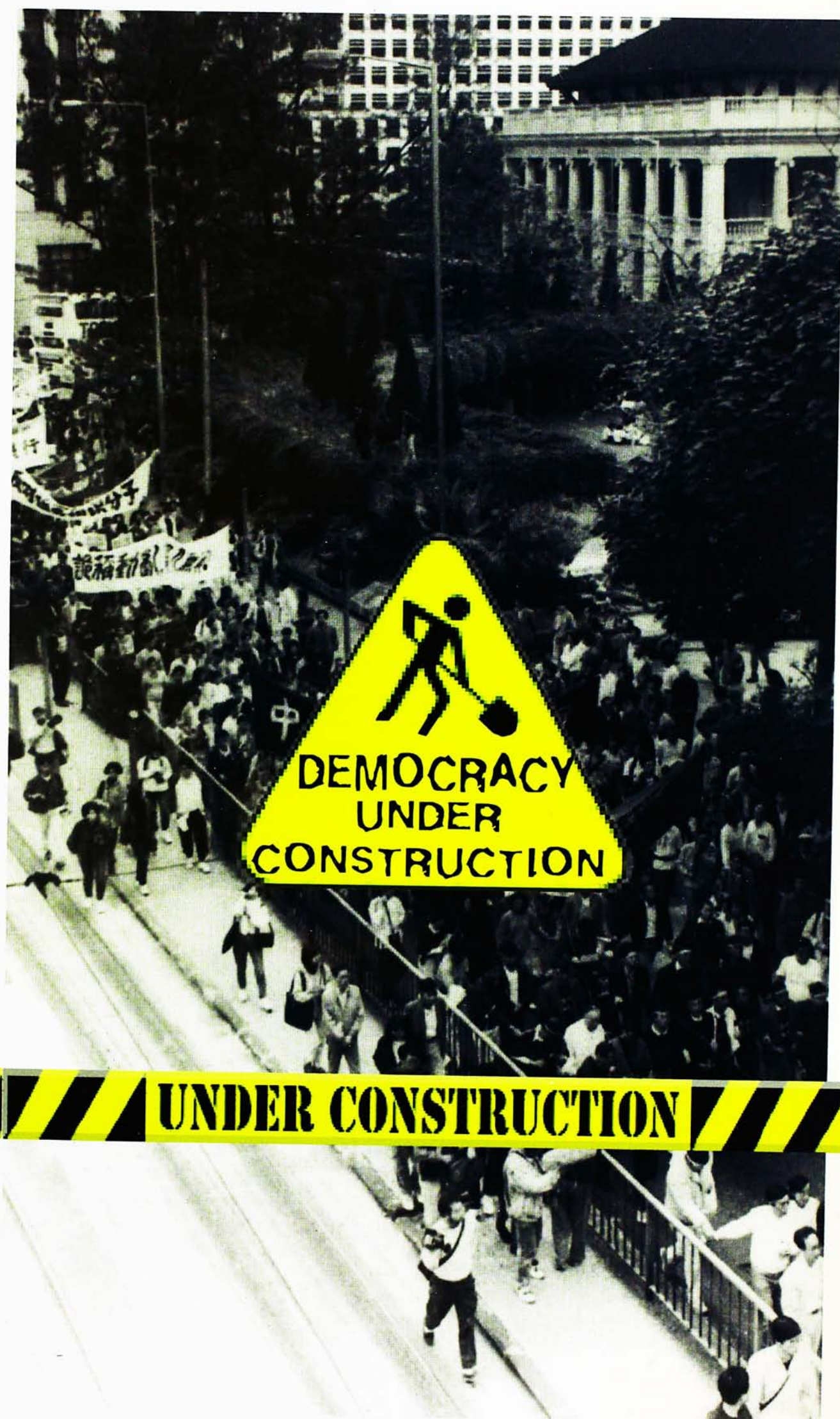
the extension of legislative council building
democratic space





UNDER CONSTRUCTION





UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Forewords

As any programme and design evolves gradually over time, the whole thesis study is indeed a continuous thinking process. In this design report, all **programming decisions** e.g. choice of site, client; **design concepts** as well as **presentation materials** are presented as interrelated elements along a continuous process of thought through time. This would be a more authentic way to record the whole process as neither one of them should take precedence over the others. All three of them are intertwined somehow and together they give rise to the spine of thought in this thesis study.

In a sense, **this report is a record of thinking in this year.**

I would also extend this record a little bit to cover the origin of thought of the whole project where this whole idea came from.

It is regrettable some of the interesting materials are not in this report. The very early conceptual model of a moving chamber (acts like a leveling pole) which would enable debate when number of people on the two sides are close to each other in a certain degree; the first big site model showing the urban connections from Legco up to the Governor's House; and sketches kept in the small sketch book are regrettably unrecorded or lost. In spite of this, the rest of the materials should be thorough enough to let viewers understand the whole story of the thesis.



Acknowledgements

Many thanks to those who helped to enlighten my mind.....



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JAN.

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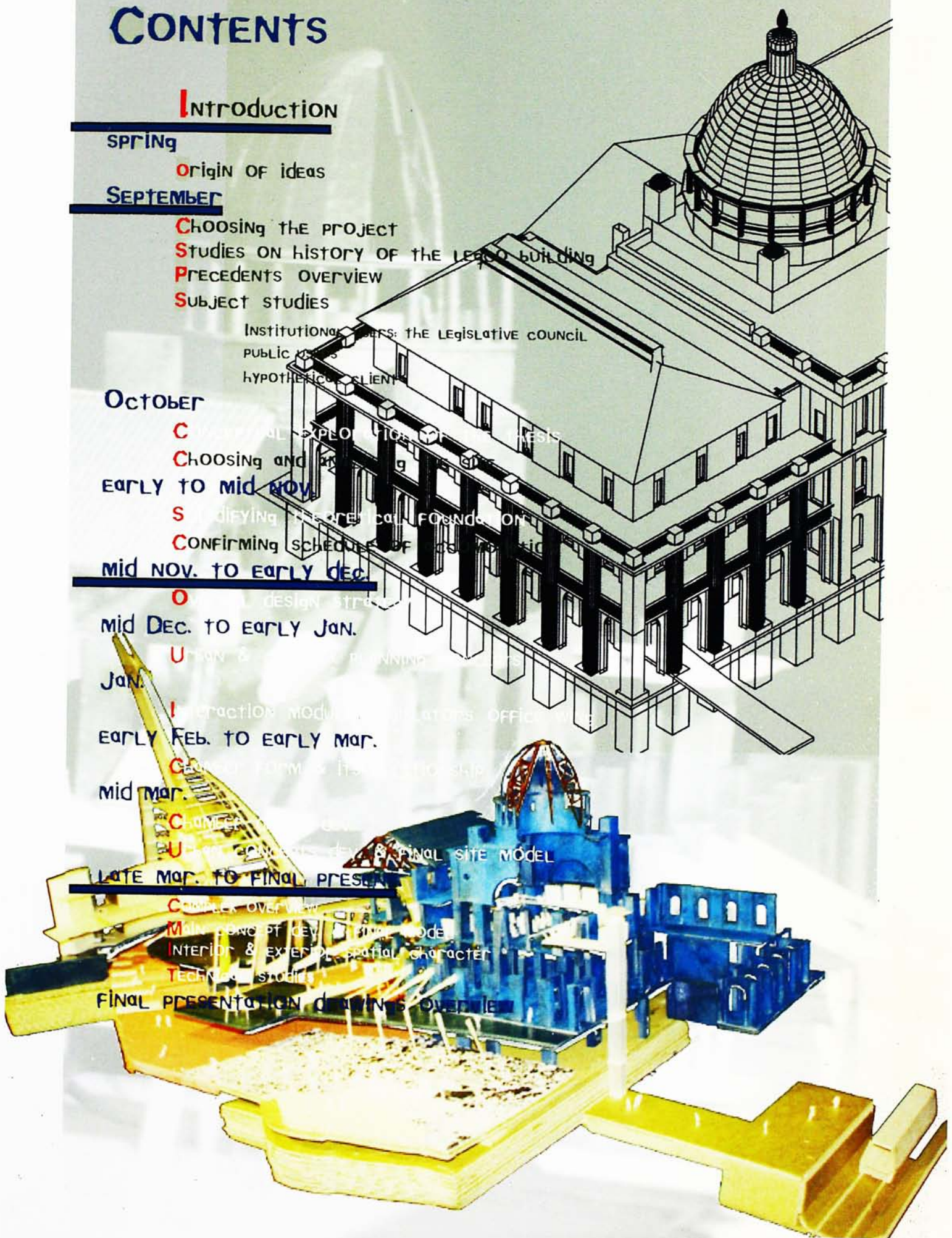
CONCEPT OVERVIEW

MAIN CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT

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Introduction

The spirit of the time

A Networked World View

If any particular design bears personal beliefs and social values of the time, **then this design** bears an intrinsic value that everything in this world is related and connected to everything else.

The idea of “

network” as expressed in current computer technology (e.g. of Internet), urban planning (e.g. highway networks), and even business relationships, represents a social values firmly held in this period, especially at the end of twentieth century. The city of Hong Kong, for example, is comprehensively networked either in its physical dimensions or in its social characters.

Architecture, being considered as an important physical component in this networked whole, should be a portrayal of the society. So whatever happened to the society, whatever changes occur, it should be rightfully reflected in its architecture.

Personal Design Objectives

As architecture should and would portray the values of the society (networked to society), when choosing and designing this project, focus was made on how everything connected to every other. A **building should not be isolated, it should be connected with the rest of the world, should it be physical like urban connection or metaphysical like its changes in history, memory and spirit.**

Personal objective is to develop a project which has **a strong relationship to and is a natural portrayal of the changes in society.** A project which is “networked” with the city in time (the past and the future), and can evolve with it. This personal perception coupled with the social and political change of sovereignty at the time of this thesis study caused the choice on a civic architecture which can bare this strong social relationship yet can be a response social change at this time. **It was a direct effect to the changes of the city.**

As the whole society is connected somehow, in order to work properly, any government as well as any of its components should also be connected and integrated to the society, no matter socially or physically (in civic architecture). In the medieval ages, the government can work properly on an isolated hill because the whole society are fragmented pieces isolated from each other. An isolated government can not even work in the modern times, it has to be connected with everyone else in the society and evolve with it.

This idea of a “**well-connected**” government becomes democracy as everyone, not just the powerful minority, can be involved with the governing.

the Project

With all that, the choice to extends and transform the legislative council building was made.

It is **connected to the society** through elections. It functions to **identity the believes of the society** through debate. Most importantly, it has a history extending back early during the formation of the city. **It transforms with city.** It is part of the city.

Its architecture should then also be connected to the city. If the Council/ the Government is supposed to be "well-connected" and democratic, then its civic architecture should also bare such characteristics. The architecture should be **connected to the city**....It should be designed as **part of the city**.... and it should be able to transform with it....

Followings are whole thesis study and its design...



Legend:



the Site

before 1997

After studying architecture for a couple of years, I began to see architecture as an element of **change**. The construction or demolition of it represents a physical phenomenon induced by the changing forces of the society.....

Spring



I joined a **cultural forum** around this time about public space in Hong Kong. One of poorly designed urban space yet extremely significant is the space around Legislative Council Building. Of course, I know about the place, but was not particularly interested in it. As architects and cultural scholars discussed its problem, my interest about the place and in particular, the old legco building,

May , 1997

First Thesis Proposal named **"Spatial Mutation"** was submitted. It mainly deals with how space can transform to accommodate **change in function and expansion of use**. Alteration to Legislative Council was one of the option among other ideas such as an expandable library and cinema.

Establishing the Thesis

What is this thesis about?

This thesis will explore the relationship between power and architecture under a changing political context (the handover and institutional transformation, e.g. of elected components, after it). Civic buildings are always built with an ideal "fixed" constitutional/institutional model. If such model is supposed to change overtime, such as that depicted by the Basic Law for Hong Kong, how architecture is to cater for it? How does the domains



of the government and citizens merge together through architecture? How does architecture help them to communicate? Also, in what way can public identity be represented in a pluralistic society? What kind of urban space is "democratic"? The thesis will address these issues through investigating the possible and probable solutions to the extension of Legislative Council Building and its surrounding space.

The wrapped Reichstag (1995), created by artists Christo and Jeanne-Claude, appeared as another kind of transformation to this old parliament building after a dramatic social change: the fall of Berlin Wall.

Authenticity to Change of Society

to recognise the past, be true to the current, and to allow for the future

This thesis is being established on the believe that architecture is an authentic portrayal of the reality and collective values of the society. Being authentic is to reflect the truth at any time. So whatever happened to the society, whatever changes occur, it should be rightfully reflected in the architecture.

Hypothesis 1: Past - showing the layers of history in the city

Because of the authenticity to deal with the past, there would be no shame to retain colonial buildings in post-colonial time, as they are part of the solid history which had taken part to form the city. In fact, architecture contributes to urban forms which always record the layers of history taken place in the past. There are always past "memory" associated with each fragment of city.

The thesis will propose a new layer of fragments on top of the past layers of the colonial city. This new layer together with the old ones will formulate the new identity of the city.

Hypothesis 2: Current - reflecting "real" current values and political system



This thesis is not about building political monuments in the heart of Central nor would it about building something with utopian-type democracy and declare it to be the ideal of the city. There is no "power" for the architect to impose any values which are not the true believed values of the society. If the society believes in democracy, let the architecture reflect it. However, if the society believed in totalitarianism, let the architecture reflect it also no matter how as intellectual, the architect despise the value. Architecture is a phenomenon of public believe and this is especially true in civic architecture. As with the problems of Le Corbusier and many architects throughout the modern history, the tension of architects and society comes from the intellectual believe of architects in utopian ideals which was brutally never belong to the society. For Le Corbusier, it is his pure socialist ideals, the urge to challenge authority and label every one as equal becomes so strong that ironically it becomes an authority in itself. His housing projects became a monument of that authority, and is never really accepted in his

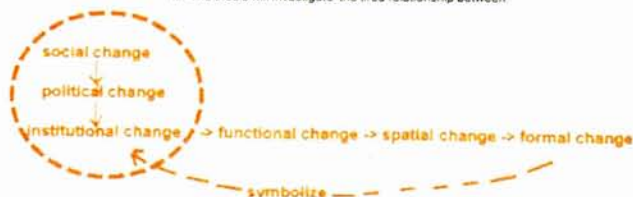
native European culture. For us as current intellectuals, there are a great deals of believe in democracy, and that it should dictate the architectural form whether or not the current society is really democratic or not. The architecture may never get built because it contradicts to the reality of the institution in power. Even if it does, it becomes a lie to the people, and ironically we are building up a type of architectural image for that kind of lie, the equivalent of so called "People's Architecture" in Stalinism.



Hypothesis 3: Future - the ideas of transforming architecture

According to sociology, modern society (the term also included post-modern in sociological view) is characterized by social change, i.e. change of economy, politics and most importantly, social values. There is no way that institution and political system can stay the same to survive in the wave of social advancement. This is especially true in fast-developing regions. Mainland political system is changing because of the change in economy and social value. There is even a route for change as laid down in the Basic Law, the mini-constitution of Hong Kong, so that eventually both the legislature and the chief executive will be directly elected and thus take full accountability to the locals.

How would architecture responds to the change of institution it houses? This is actually the most important issue the thesis will address. Even after the handover, there is a certain degree of political uncertainty crowded over Hong Kong. It may follow the route of Basic Law or it may not. It may become more democratic or totalitarian. Can a pre-determined fixed space and form represent all the uncertainty of the institution? Can the architecture symbolize it? The thesis will investigate the tired relationship between



Currently, architecture responds to institutional and social change by heavy renovation/addition, or by a change of use, e.g. turning old buildings into museums. However, these would imply damage or loss of original intention in the building. In Hong Kong, the majority of them get demolished once they no longer fit the society. Because of this, we lost a lot of physical heritage and urban memories. It is also a waste of capital when a building take four to five years to contrive and only last for twenty-something years. Is there any other way for architecture to response more subtly to these social/institutional changes? Because of the future dramatic change in the nature of Hong Kong legislative constituency, the study of Legislative Council Building will set a pioneer example of how architecture can response and reinforce the changes in institution it houses. Also, for such an important public architecture, to symbolize the social change of society in which it was built to represent.

Summer, 1997

Maybe because of its exciting site, or probably because of the

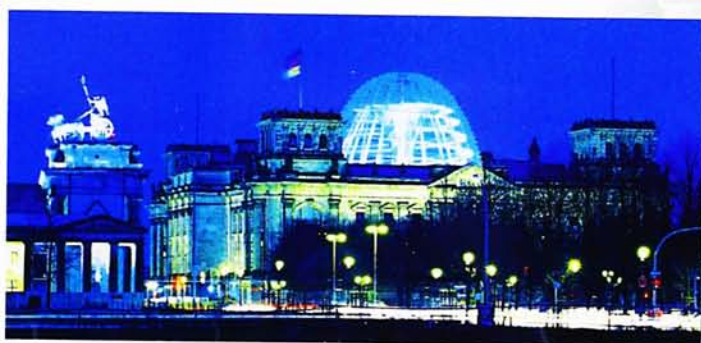
handover which definitely represent a **significant social/political change**. Preference was given to the Legco project. Although a precise program had not even been thought of, design thinking had already begun. Urban ideas and the concept of chamber were still very blur at this stage. After several visits to the Stature Square and Charter Garden, the idea of making a

to the old
rounding
urban landscape became very appeal to me. As a contrasting element can reinforce both the old building and the new addition, this idea was being sought after for the rest of the project. In parallel with this, information and drawings of the old legco building were being collected at the same time.

September

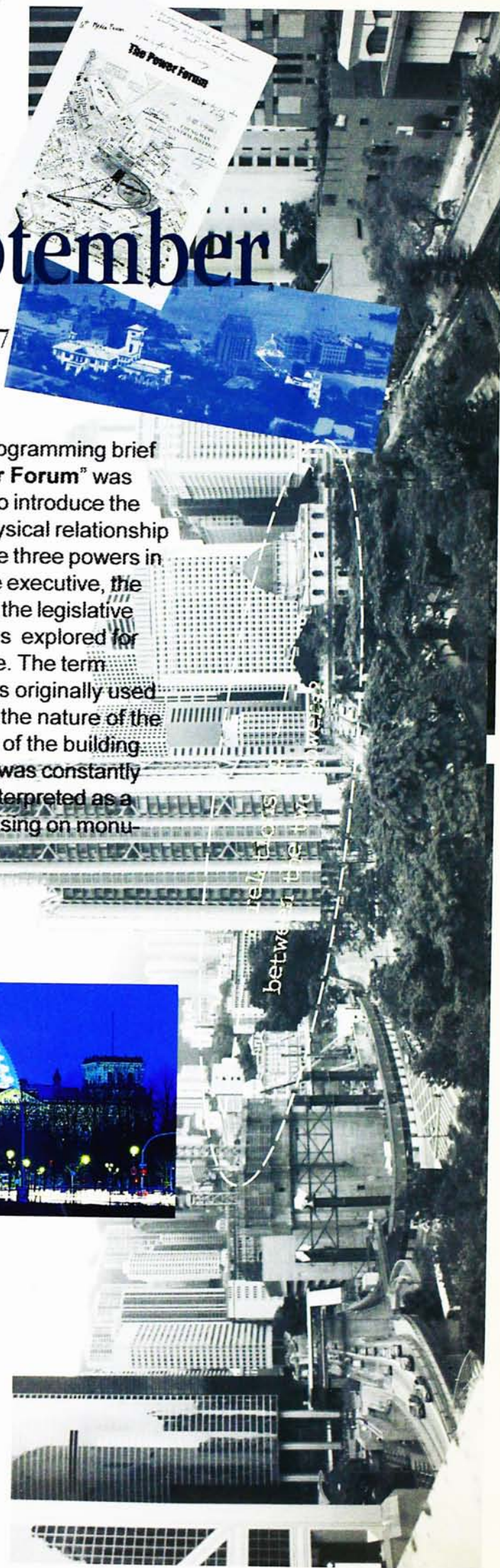
1997

The first programming brief **"the Power Forum"** was submitted to introduce the project. Physical relationship between the three powers in Central (the executive, the judicial and the legislative powers) was explored for the first time. The term "Power" was originally used to describe the nature of the square and of the building. However, it was constantly being misinterpreted as a project focusing on monumentality.

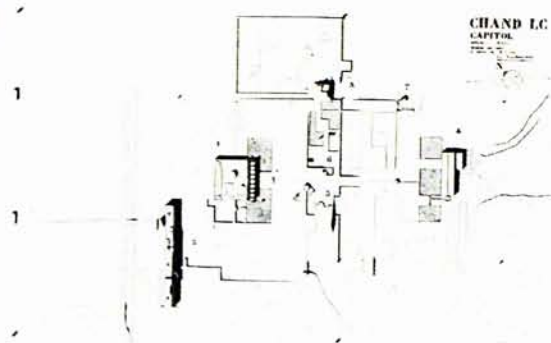


Renovation/addition are kinds of transformation to existing fabric. This Berlin Parliament Renovation project became one of the precedents studied. However, such architectural transformation would only be possible in a changing social or political climax.

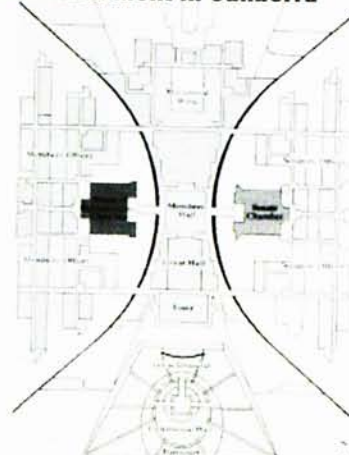
Choosing the Project



Early Precedents



Australian Parliament in Canberra



Chandigarph
Capitol Complex in Brazil

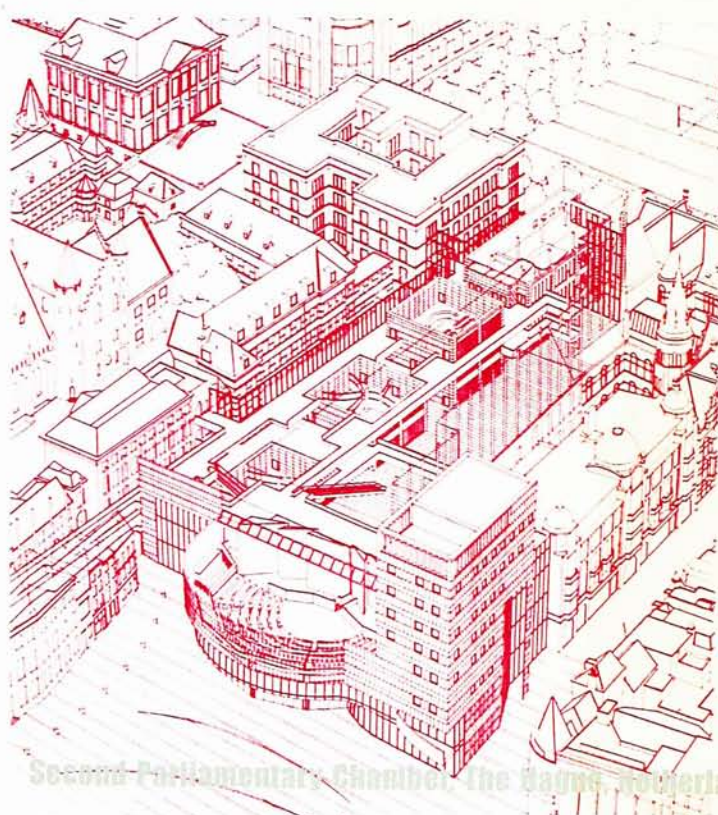


National Capital C
CANBERRA, Australia

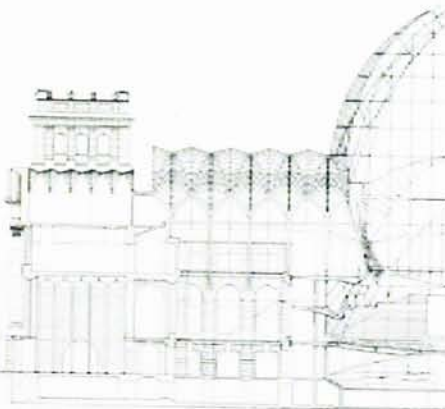
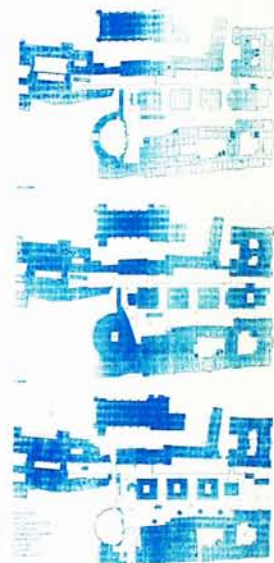


National Capital Complex, Canberra

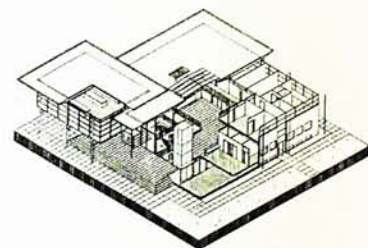
Current Precedents: Forms / Concepts



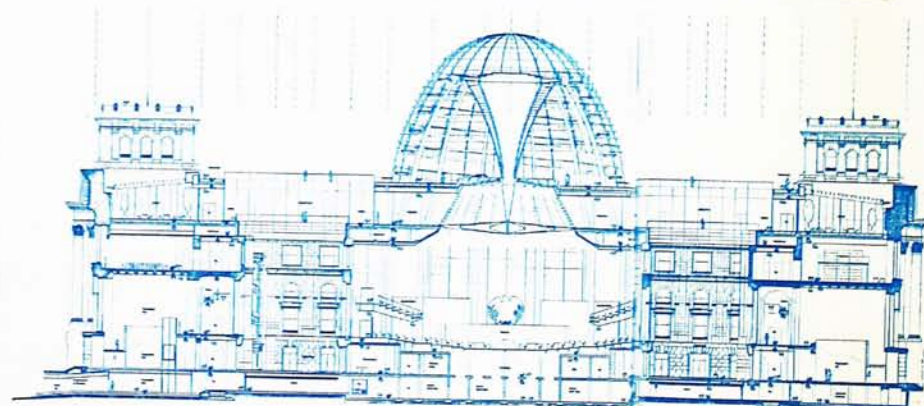
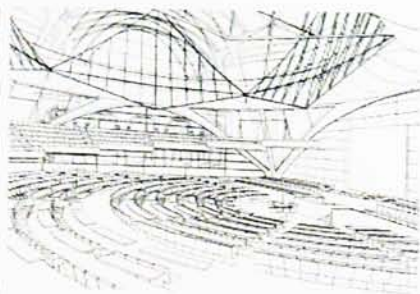
Second Parliamentary Chamber, The Hague, Rotterdam



Catatrava's scheme on Reichstag



Solar Studies on Chamber of Reichstag



Governor Sir Frederick Lugard (1907-12)

"...and if I may prophesy that when Victoria has ceased to be a city, when the harbour has silted up, when even the Hong Kong Club has crumbled away, this building will remain like a pyramid to commemorate the genius of the Far East."

History of the Legco Building

History of the Building

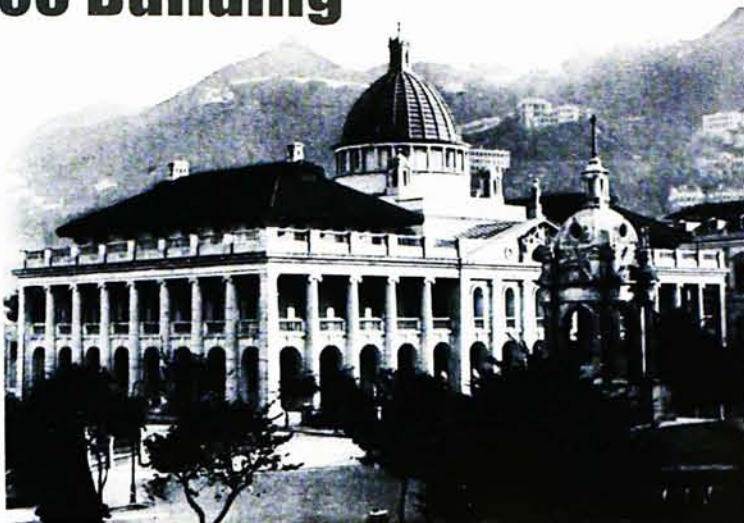
The current (provisional) Legislative Council Building was converted from the former Supreme Court, now relocated in Admiralty Government Complex. Standing in the heart of Hong Kong, it is almost like a physical inscription of colonial era. The granite-made colonial building is predominantly neo-classical with Chinese style double layer of side roofs.

The building was designed by Aston Webb and E. Ingress Bell, consulting architects to the Crown Agents. The partnership of Webb and Bell also designed several well-known architecture in Britain at the time, including the facade of Buckingham Palace.

It took twelve years to construct the building 1900-1912. **The site was reclaimed from the sea. The foundation is formed by hundreds of Chinese fir tree trunks driven into a mixture of reclamation material and silt on the site, the building in effect "floats" on a timber raft. Such a foundation system requires the ground water level to be maintained at a constant level. A ground water replenishment system, which operate like a huge ball cock and cistern, was installed in the later conversion work to replace ground water as needed.**

Why the building faces west?

The English architect originally designed the building to face East to the cricket ground, now Charter Garden. There was always a symbolic association of the East, where sun rises, to the British empire. It is also more logical to face east rather than west to avoid the hot sun in the afternoon. However, with the Queen Victoria Statue on its West, and with all the other major buildings such as Hong Kong Bank and Hong Kong Club facing towards the square, the orientation of the court would be more natural and most importantly, more respectful towards Statue Square. The plans were ultimately turned about and the court was constructed to face the square.



the court was constructed to face the square.

Why conversed the building?

The Supreme Court remained in the building until 1978, when work on the Mass Transit Railway affected the ground water level, leading to subsidence which caused cracks in the structure. The courts have to moved out by mid-1978 and bracing was installed to support the building.

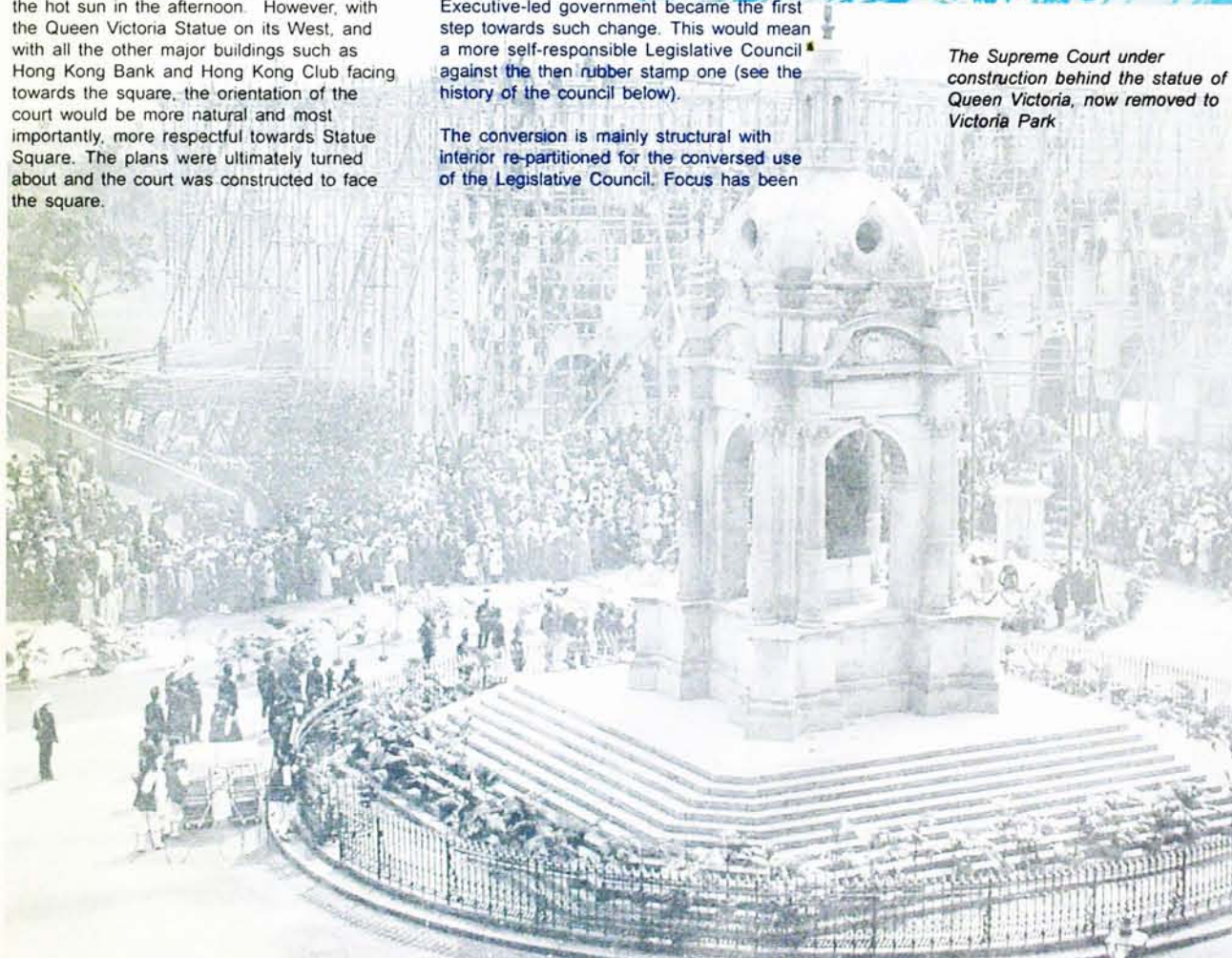
The building was not used for few years. In 1982, negotiations between Britain and China towards Hong Kong future eventually began to go formal. There was an understanding for Hong Kong to develop a representative government which directly accountable to its citizens. A representative Legislative Council which can monitor the Executive-led government became the first step towards such change. This would mean a more self-responsible Legislative Council against the then rubber stamp one (see the history of the council below).

The conversion is mainly structural with interior re-partitioned for the conversed use of the Legislative Council. Focus has been

Construction in process, 1906



The Supreme Court under construction behind the statue of Queen Victoria, now removed to Victoria Park



Functions of the Council

the main function of the Legislative Council is to act for the **well-being of the community** and this is done by:

1. **pass laws,**
2. **control public expenditure and**
3. **monitor Government policies.**

Members carry out their work mainly through a system of **committees**. They control public expenditure through the Council's Finance Committees, study bills in bills committees, and monitor Government's performance through the Council's Public Accounts Committee, panels, and a redress system.

Bills committees and panels are formed by the House Committee, which coordinates the Council's activities and looks into the development and refinement of the practice and procedures of the Council and its committees.

Members' concern for the well-being of the community may be reflected through questions asked during Legislative Council sittings.

Public Participation of Policies

Redress System

This system under which public can discuss their problem with legislative councillor. Members of the public can make representations on, or seek solutions to, problems arising from government policies, decisions and procedures. Under the system, members take

turn to be on ward duty during their duty week to meet individual complainants and to give on-the-spot guidance to staff in pressing cases. If appropriate, cases of particular importance are put to the appropriate panels for further consideration.

the evolution of the Legislative Council from 1843:

- 1843 - The Legislative Council was established with 4 Official Members (including the Governor who was President and Member)
- 1844 - The Council held its first meeting
- 1850 - The first two Unofficial Members were appointed
- 1857 - An additional 2 Officials and 1 Unofficial were appointed
- 1864 - The Council was enlarged to comprise 7 Officials and 5 Unofficials including a Chinese
- 1866 - The Council was further enlarged and consisted of 8 Officials and 6 Unofficials
- 1869 - The Council comprised 10 Officials and 8 Unofficials, including 3 Chinese and 1 Portuguese
- 1876 - There were a maximum of 23 Officials (including 5 ex-officio) and 23 Unofficials
- 1883 - There were a maximum of 29 Officials (including 4 ex-officio) and 29 Unofficial Members
- 1884 - There were a maximum of 29 Officials (including 4 ex-officio) and 32 Unofficial Members
- 1885 - After the first ever elections to the Council, there were 11 Official Members (including 4 ex-officio) and 46 Unofficials - 22 appointed by the Governor, 12 elected from functional constituencies and 12 elected by electoral college constituencies made up of members of municipal councils and district boards
- 1888 - 2 more elected Members were returned from the functional constituencies replacing two appointed seats
- 1893 - A Deputy President was appointed by the Governor from among the Members to chair the sittings. There were 4 ex-officio Members (including the Governor who remained President and Member but systematically absented himself from sittings), 18 appointed and 39 elected Members - 21 from functional constituencies and 18 by direct elections in geographical constituencies
- 1893 - The Governor ceased to be a Member of the Legislative Council and handed over the Presidency in February to a Member elected from among the non-official Members

The Compositional Change of Legislative Council 1947-2006

Year	1947	1951	1964	1973	1976	1977	1980	1983
Official members	9	10	13	15	20(23)	21(25)	23(27)	19(29)
Appointed members	7	8	13	15	22(23)	24(25)	26(27)	29(29)
Elected by Electoral college*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Elected by functional constituencies	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Directly elected	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total members	16	18	26	30	42(46)	45(50)	49(54)	48(58)

Year of Elections	1984	1985	1988	1991	1995	1997*	1998	2000	2004	2008
Official members	17	11	11	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Appointed members	30	22	20	18	-	-	-	-	-	-
Elected by electoral college*	-	12	12	-	10	60	10	6	-	-
Elected by functional constituencies	-	12	14	21	30	-	30	30	30	?
Directly elected	-	-	-	18	20	-	20	24	30	?
Total members	47 (61)	57	57	60	60	60	60	60	60	?

* provisional Legislative Council
() maximum possible membership which is different from the actual membership

There were 60 Members in the Council in 1997. 60 — 40 Members returned from 10 geographical constituencies, 20 Members from functional constituencies, and 10 Members by election Committee which comprised elected members of all district boards

Public Hearing:

The Council's proceedings are open to the public with both English and Cantonese used and simultaneous interpretation provided

Mass Media Coverage and Record:

- All session meetings are simultaneously broadcast over the radio (RTHK English Channel)
- Report by other mass media
- Recorded verbatim in the 'Hong Kong (Hansard)' Reports of the Sittings of the Legislative Council of Hong Kong

Sittings of Legislative Council

Order of Sitting:

The order of business at a normal sitting comprises the tabling of subsidiary legislation and other papers, questions, statements, bills, motions and debates

Tabling of Legislation and other Papers:

All subsidiary legislation is submitted to the Council, either by

Subcommittees

Subcommittees are set up by the House Committee on subsidiary legislation, on other legislation related matter and on specific issues such as the following:

- Subcommittee on Authentic Chinese Texts
- Subcommittee on the Financing of the Airport Core Programme
- Subcommittee on Nationality
- Subcommittee to Study the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance & Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) Ordinance
- Subcommittee on Procedural Matters
- Subcommittee on Women's Affairs

(*) Other subcommittee set up temporarily on legislation related matters

Panels

Panels are committees set up within the Legco to monitor and examine government policies and issues of public concern. It examines any issues that touched on its policy area. Each panel is also headed by a chairman and a deputy chairman elected from members. President cannot join panels. They may form subcommittees to study specific issues

A panel can also conduct public hearings to solicit views from the public. It may also conduct inquiries. The subjects for discussion can be brought up by Members, meetings with district boards, from public complaints and representations, or from proposals presented by the Administration

Members' Supporting Services

As there are a lot of supporting services such as clerical work, technical support, personal assistance, and supporting facilities required by Legislative Councilors, the Legislative Council consists a Secretariat to cater for all the supporting services of its members. The Secretariat is an independent body and part of the Administration under the management of Mandatory Legislative Council Commission

The Legislative Council Commission:

The Commission, headed by the President of the Legislative Council and comprising 16 members, is empowered by the Mandatory Legislative Council Ordinance to manage its administrative support and services through a Secretariat with financial and managerial autonomy. The Commission is also empowered to determine the organization of its administrative and support facilities, formulate and monitor policies for their effective operation, and expend funds in ways it sees fit to support these activities

There are three committees under the Commission:

- Committee on Personal Matters
- Committee on Facilities and Services
- Committee on Members' Allowances

The Legislative Council Secretariat:

The Secretary General of the Legislative Council Secretariat has nine functional divisions. In 1994, there are 163 officers who are directly employed by the Commission. The remaining 16 are full servants seconded temporarily from the Administration

The following are the nine functional divisions:

- Council Business Division
- House Committee and Bills Committee Division
- Finance Committee and Panels Division
- Legal Service Division
- Research and Library Services Division
- Public Information Division
- Complaints Division
- Translation and Interpretation Division
- Administration Division

Organisational Overview

The Evolution of the Council

Public Users

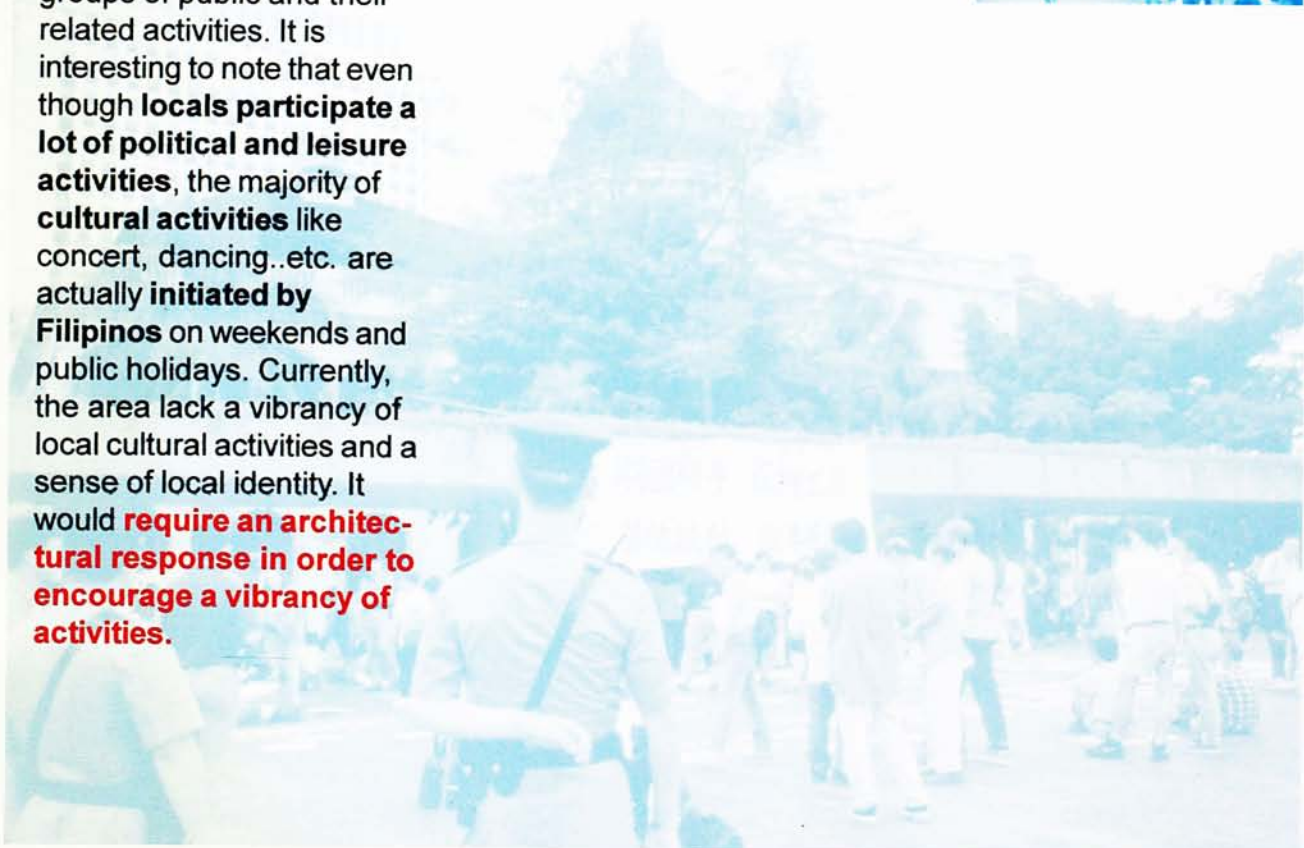
Listing of *different types of public and activities*

in Stature Square and Charter Garden

Types of activities	Participants	Group type	Details of major activities	Usual happen times
Political	demonstrators audiences politicians	i s m l • •	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> demonstrations, rally, petitions participating, listening announcements, declarations, propaganda 	noon, non-office hours " " " " noon, non-office hours, office hours
Cultural	mainly Filipinos (sometimes join by other participants)	•	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> concerts, , preaching, dancing, singing 	weekends, public holidays " " "
Leisure & exercises	families and children lovers	•	leisure walking, sitting, playing (children)	non-office hours (infrequent)
	friends: locals	•	holding, chatting (in more private space)	weekdays, evening to night
	Filipinos & other ethnic groups	•	chatting, leisure walking	noon, non-office hours
	senior citizens	• •	chatting, sitting, eating, taking photos	weekends, public holidays
	individuals	•	morning exercises, casual talking, playing chess, leisure walking	every morning, mid-afternoon
		•	sitting, reading, writing,	anytime
		•	jogging, body exercises	early morning, late afternoon
Commercial	hawkers	•	selling (drinks and daily commodities)	weekdays to weekends weekends and public holidays
Others	reporters	•	reporting	occasionally
	tourists	• •	visiting, taking photos	occasionally

i, s, m, l : individual, small group(2-

This table shows different groups of public and their related activities. It is interesting to note that even though **locals participate a lot of political and leisure activities**, the majority of **cultural activities** like concert, dancing..etc. are actually **initiated by Filipinos** on weekends and public holidays. Currently, the area lack a vibrancy of local cultural activities and a sense of local identity. It would **require an architectural response in order to encourage a vibrancy of activities.**



As this project is **built for the future**, current or temporary political atmosphere is not the main concern here. Instead of the Government of Hong Kong (or the Provincial Legislative Council in power during the time of this thesis study), the hypothetical client is assumed to be the Hong Kong Research Institution of Asia-Pacific Studies. This would give the thesis more freedom to pursue ideas which deal with the possible change in the future.

Hong Kong Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies

the Chinese University of Hong Kong

One of the prime concern of this Institute is the **demo-
cratic development** in the Region, especially in Hong Kong before and after the change of sovereignty. Because of this, the institute organises a strategic research programme in **Political Development in Hong Kong**. This programme studies political changes in Hong Kong which are induced by political reforms and effected by changes in the socio-economic sectors.



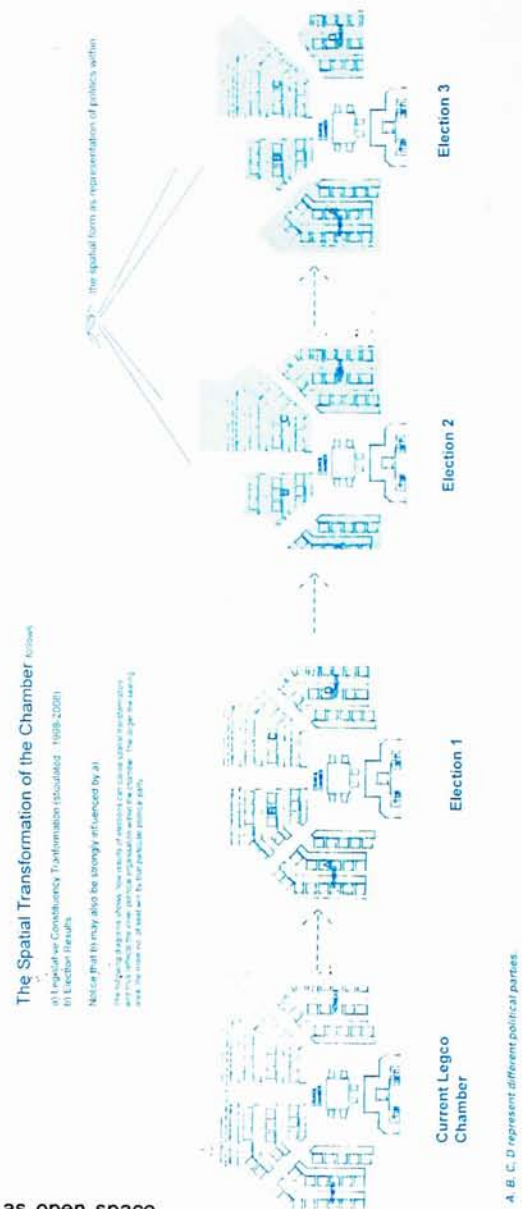
Areas of interest of the programme:

- **the evaluation of the impact of political reform on society and the political system**
- **changes in the political culture of Hong Kong Chinese**
- **formation of political leadership**
- **electoral politics**
- **the changing role of the civil servants**
- **the emergence and behaviour of political groups.**

The thesis assumed research and design on this Legco extension project is being financed by the research institution under the title of "evaluation of the impact of political reform on society". How would the use of the old Legco Building and the urban space around it change in response to the anticipated democratic development in the future would be the what the institution interested in. **The research programme would ultimately lead to a design proposal which can shows the possibility of architecture(physical environment/ urban character) to interact with the changing character of the institution and the political systems.**

Together with other research of the institute in the future democratic development, the design will then be submitted to the Government as a combined proposal for mutual betterment of both physical and political environments.

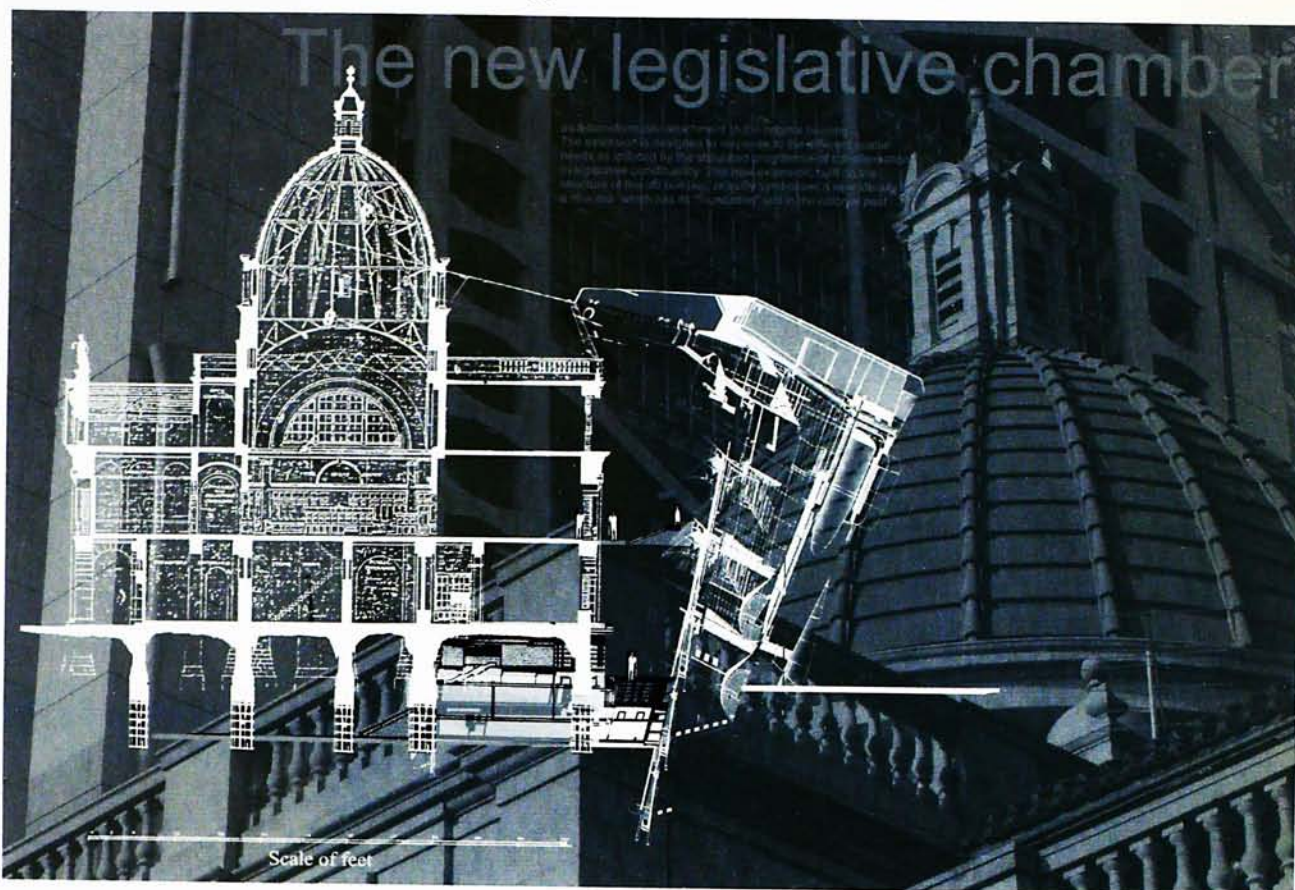
Studies on a transformable chamber



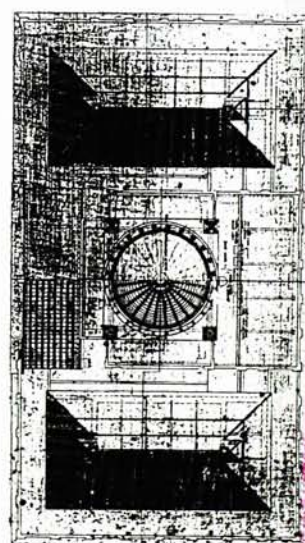
Early conceptual model showing additions to the Legco building

October 1997

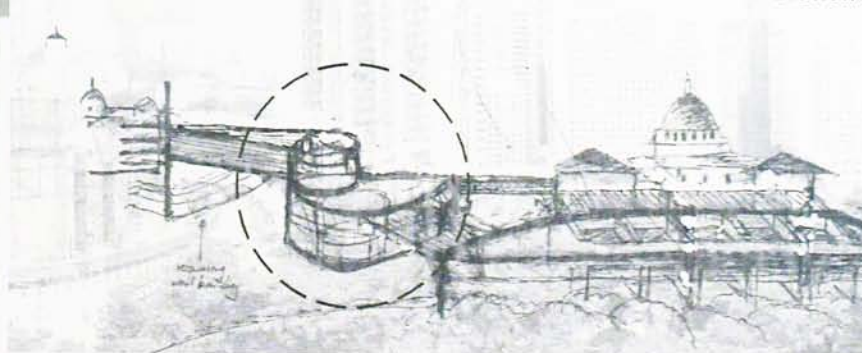
Conceptual Explorations of the Thesis



October saw the first presentation in design concepts. Contrast between old and new was the main theme in this presentation. The new additions, of a totally different form and architectural language would be attached to the old structure which symbolise **"its past foundation"**. Critics were doubtful about the location of the addition which blocks the facade of the old building from Charter Garden. This concept was later abandoned but the idea of **contrasting with** the neo-classical language was reinforced.

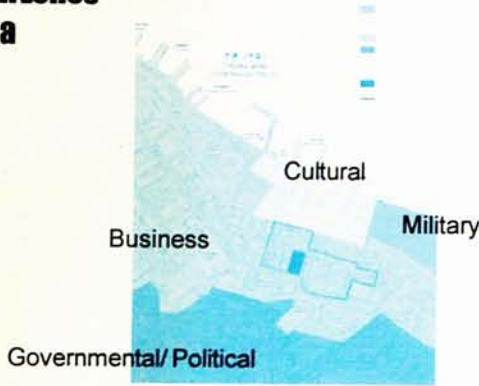


Montages showing concept the new addition

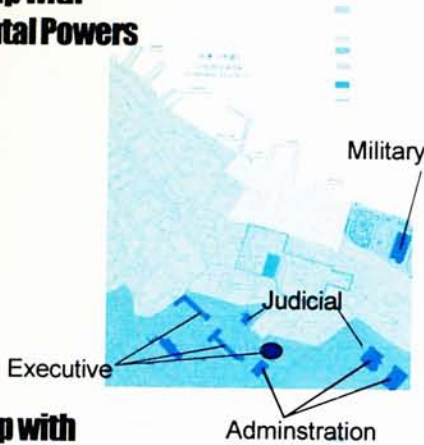


The very first sketch of the whole project, showing the new additions besides and behind the Legco building. Flyovers are used to create semi-open spaces which merge the complex with the city fabric. The idea of using the old China Bank (highlighted) introduced.

Functional zones of the area



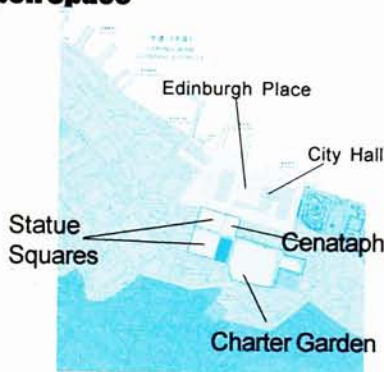
Relationship with Governmental Powers



Relationship with important Business Sectors



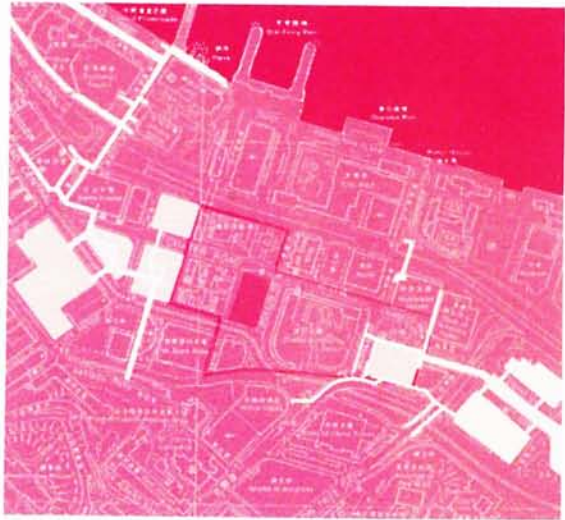
Surrounding Open Space and Amenities



Main traffic route around the site

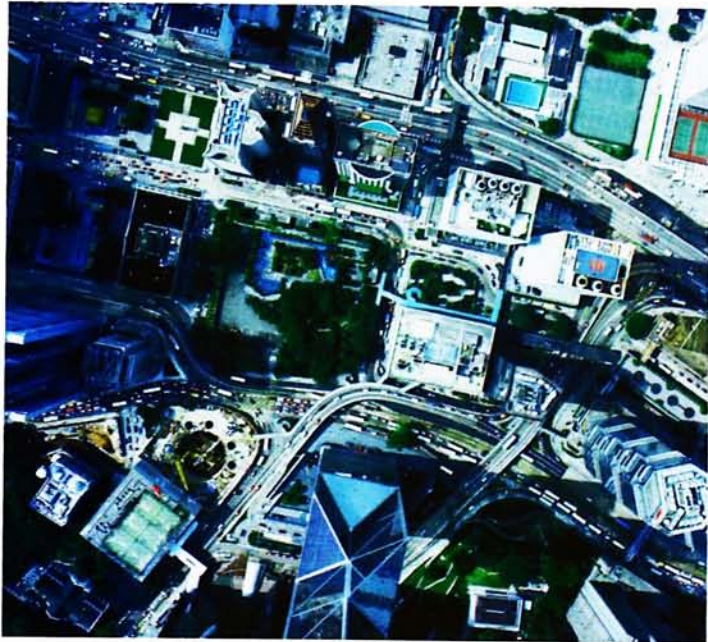


Public dispersal and (Public transport entry/exists) points



Networks of elevated pedestrian walkways and upper-level pedestrian space (e.g. shopping arcade)
Notice the opportunities of the site to provide connection between the two elevated networks of Central and Admiralty

Site Analysis, the red diagram later helped to develop the idea of connection to Admiralty-upper-level pedestrian network.



Aerial view of the site.

Choosing and Analysing the Site

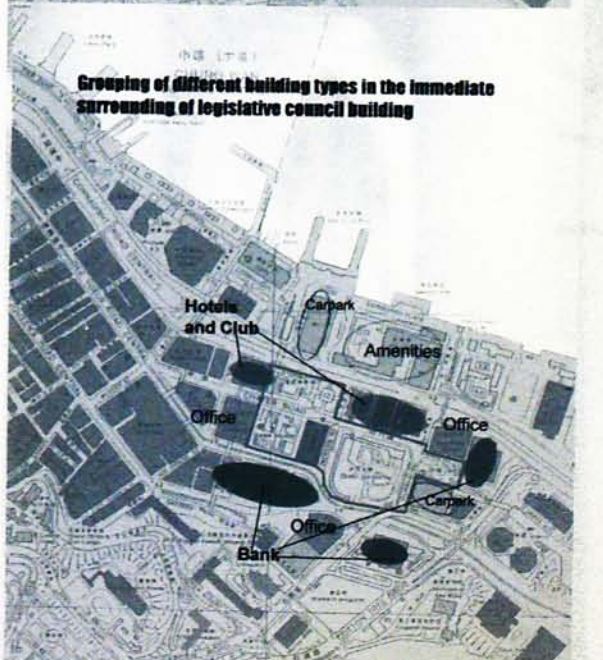
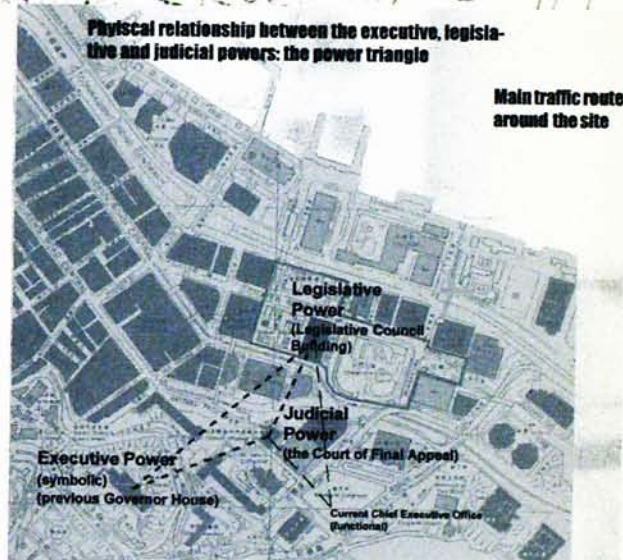
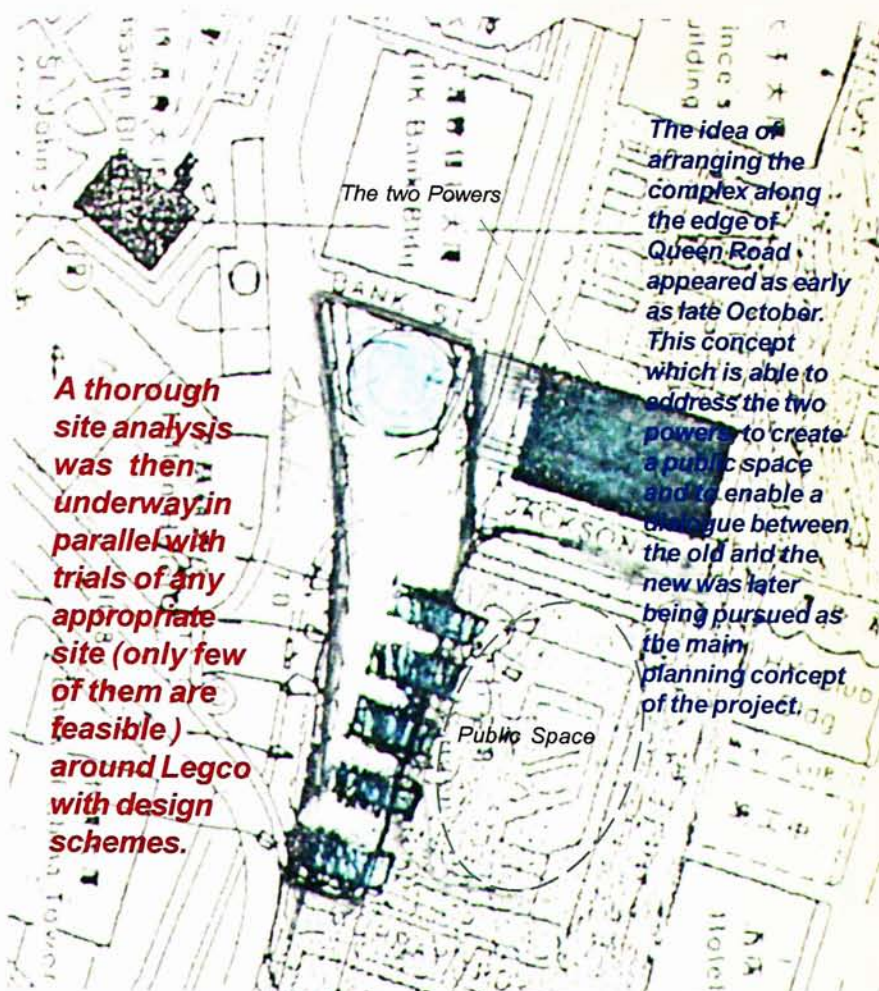
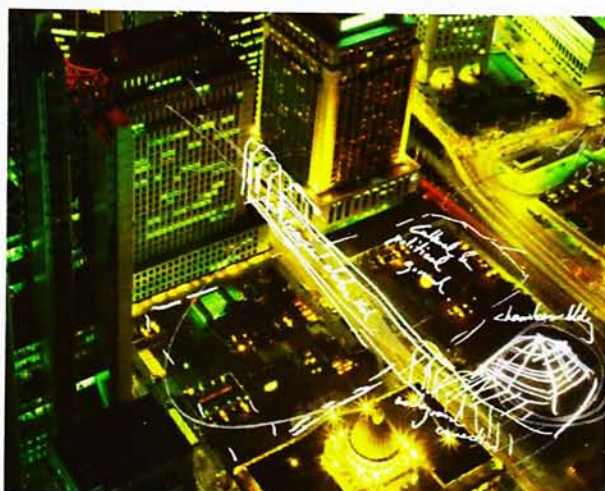
Urban issues were recognised but not considered as **"fundamentally"** important, at least not so until the October review. Previous **form-oriented** approach of an attached transformable addition was abandoned because of its irrespectfulness to the old building. A "decent" site for the addition has to be found, but where?

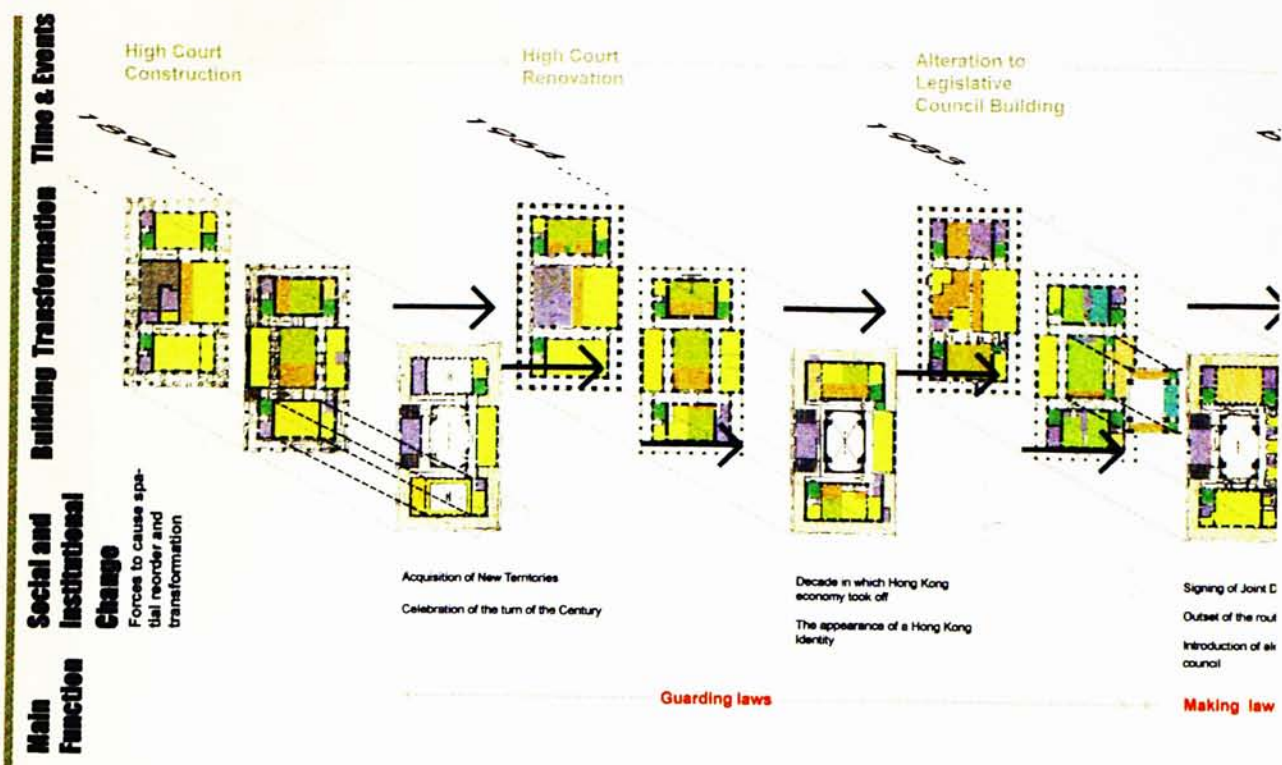
While some critics doubted whether it is necessary to build a new chamber near the old one, I firmly believe that if it is not so, the new chamber would lose an important identity which connect it to the past and the **"power"** which is almost **intrinsic** on the area. *It is the very same reason why the new SAR government took up the old French Missionary Building as Court of Final Appeal or why the Qing Emperor took up the Ming's Imperial Palace: to associate themselves with the older, the more established power.*

However, the concern of the thesis is not only to associate it, but to transform it, to make it part of the society.

A thorough site analysis was then underway in parallel with trials of any appropriate site (only few of them are feasible) around Legco with design schemes.

Early option of locating the chamber on Cenotaph. Relationship between the new and the old is tied by the pedestrianised Charter Road which extends to link the malls in Prince Building and Madarin Hotel.





Relationship between Social / Institutional Change and Transformation

Analysis in Site Transformation

Transformation of the District/ Seashore Movement



Transformation of Surrounding Environment

(Looking from the east end of current Charter Garden)

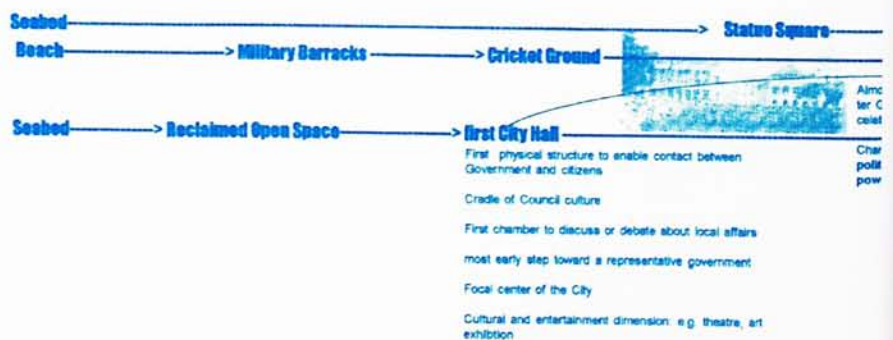


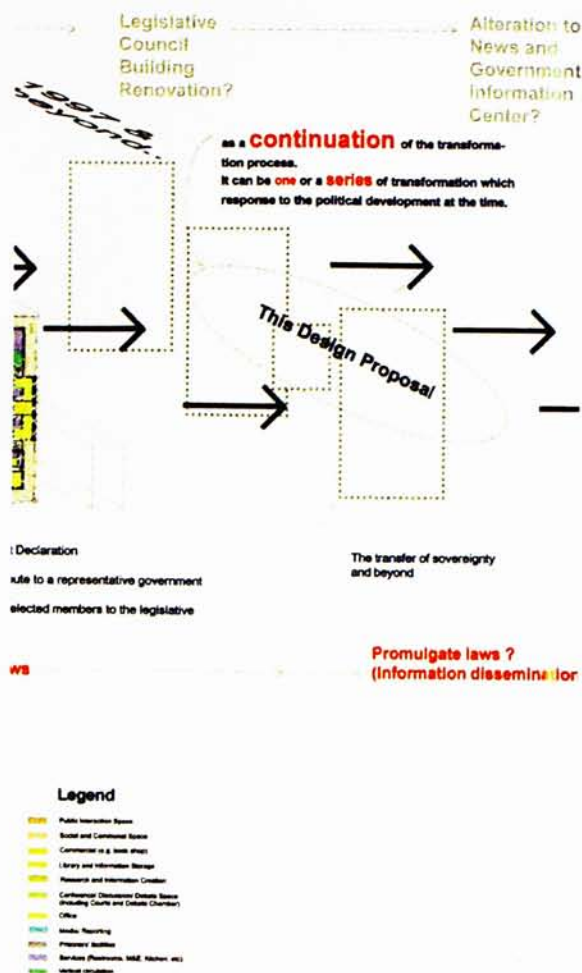
Transformation of Uses of the Site

Statue Square
current Charter Garden

current old China Bank Building site

Symbolic Transformation / Multiplication





early-mid November, 1997

Project Research and information gathering became mature around this time. Concepts of transformation gained further backings after these two studies regarding the transformations of the building and the site. This project was regarded as a **continuation** of all these changes which took place ever since the city established (for details please refer to the programming report). *The thesis is then built on the basis that it is part of the transformation in the bigger "structure" of the society.*



*The very existence of the project, if it ever happens, would signify something much more profound than an ordinary renovation work. It would be a physical testimony to a series of **social changes** already happened or are happening in this society, something seemingly casual yet deeply as dramatic as the appearance of a "Wrapped Reistag" in Berlin after 1992.*



Legislative Council Building Renovation and Extension

* Debate Space: Legislative Council Chamber Space	850
	850+
• waiting area	100
• antechamber	150
• council chamber	600
• public "gallery"/participation space	(varied, associated with no. of public)

* Committees', Subcommittees' and Panels Meeting Space

Committees' Space	
Permanent :	House Committee, Finance Committee, Public Accounts Committee, Committee on Members' Interests
Mid-term	temporarily set-up Bills Committees
Temporary	temporarily set-up Select Committees
Subcommittees' Space	
Mid-term	currently 6 subcommittees
Temporary	temporarily set-up subcommittees
Panels' Space	
Permanent :	currently 18 panels
Temporary	temporarily set-up Select Committees

* Permanent Meeting Space	1920
• large meeting room for House Committee/ Finance Committee (frequent meetings, non-public) <59>	6 x 200
• small meeting rooms <4-6>	4 x 100
• medium meeting rooms <12-20>	8 x 40

* Temporary Meeting Space for Ad-hoc Groups/ Ad-hoc Issues

600 temporary meeting rooms (varied in size and no.)

* Councilors' Office

2100

Members' Private Working Space

2000

- individual and private secretary office (at least 60)

Council President Office

100

- personal secretary office
- president office (traditionally suite)

* Possible elements to give rise to spatial transformation



Public Forum

In the form of 3-Dimensional Civic Square

The Forum will be a large open space with a high level of public participation and a high level of public participation. It will be a large open space with a high level of public participation and a high level of public participation.

Exterior/ Semi-exterior Information Dissemination Space

- Main Announcement Stage/ (Political) Performance Stage
- Information Media Display
- Political Parties and Pressure Groups Space/ Counters

Debate Forums

- Formal Debate Forum: for organized public debate, formal and informal debate
- Informal Debate Area: for spontaneous public debate, formal and informal debate

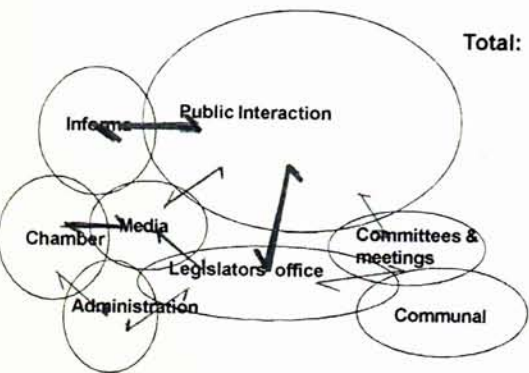
Gathering Areas and Amenities

- A large open space which connects the Parliament and the City
- Large open space (with greenery) for exercise, gathering and recreation
- External street (Open Road) arrangement with wide, pedestrian-friendly sidewalks
- Public of shopping arcade on Western Road, Prince Building, etc. to the Forum
- Another level of underground space with various amenities to provide amenities for their gathering of public holidays, also art is integrated into the ground level

Civic/Pedestrian Flyover Connection and Possible Demonstration/Parade Route

- Convenience and safe physical connection for pedestrians to commute from the Parliament to the City
- Convenience and safe physical connection for pedestrians to commute from the Parliament to the City
- Safe route for demonstrators, people in parade without disturbing the traffic

Schematic Functional Relationship Diagram



Total: about 18000 sq

Council Administration Space 4200

Council Administration: <11...> 300

The Legislative Council Commission (Statutory, may merge with Secretariat space)
(currently 3 committees under the commission)

- general office
- conference room

Council Secretariat 2200

- general office
- office of secretary general
- confidential registry
- private meeting room (e.g. for personal assistance)
- conference room
- supporting facilities space
 - photocopy area
 - presentation/ technical equipment room
 - computer (main network) room
- technical consultation office
- (simultaneous) translation office
- restrooms

Members'/Staffs' Common and Social Space 3000

- common rooms
- bar (traditional)
- lounge (recreation and activities)
- dining hall (with kitchen and servery space)
- sitting out areas: verandahs/ roof terraces (incorporated in the old building, but not often used)

Supporting Space 500

- entrance enquiry/ reception counter
- security office (with building manager office)
- pantries
- restrooms
- members and public car parks

Mechanical, Electrical and Maintenance Space 500

- loading and unloading area
- storage
- A/C plant rooms
- PABX room
- Satellite room
- maintenance room
- generator and oil tank room
- switch room
- transformer room
- lift machinery
- ductwork

Public Redress Space 1000

- complaints/ interview counters
- complaints' office
- councilor-individual interview rooms (private, small)
- councilor-group interview rooms (public/ private, medium)
- public hearing space (organised by panels or Government) (public, large)

Media Reporting Space (probably connected to the formal debate forum, see Public Forum below) 500

- press report rooms (oversee the council chamber)
- media communication room
- hansard reporters office
- media interview room
- press conference room

Information Space (public, probably connected to the information dissemination space of the public forum, see below) 1700

- Information Stored Space 1000
 - library (3 sections: politics, legal, Lego's minutes/ records)
 - stack areas
 - audio-visual area
 - group reading areas
 - reading rooms
 - photocopy area

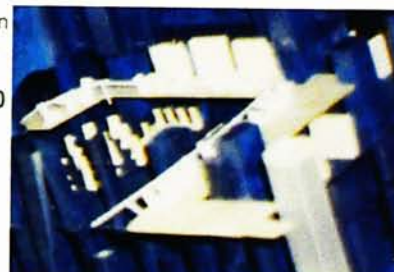
- Information Creation Space (public accessible) 500
 - politics/ legislature research and collating center

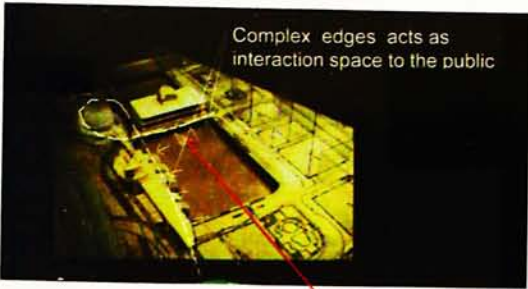
- Information Release Space/ Civil Education Space 2000
 - public enquiry counter and public information office
 - exhibition space
 - mini-cinema (to introduce political system, etc)
 - government publication counter/ souvenir shop

Kinds and sizes of space required were pretty much determined at this point.

This schedule of accomodation began to develop early in September after studies on uses and problems of current building. The whole picture of the schedule was getting clearer as project goes on. Though focus was made on the chamber design later, overall planning still corresponded to the picture of the schedule. Notice that G.F.A. of the old legco building and large ground floor semi-open exhibition areas were not included. If so, The whole project would be close to 30,000 sq. m in size which would be too big to handle in the following months.

Some of the new space listed here was later transferred to the renovated old building. For example, the library was subsequently being renovated from the old chamber to make use of the existing seating area and to **convey to the public the mood of the past legislatures.**

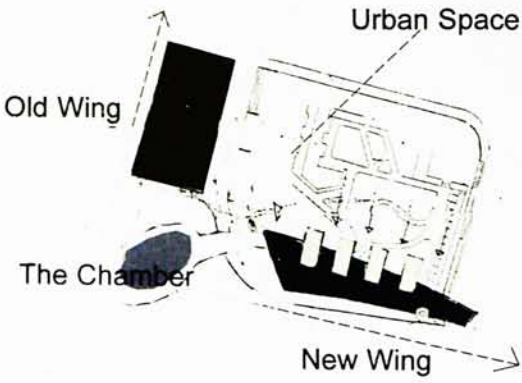




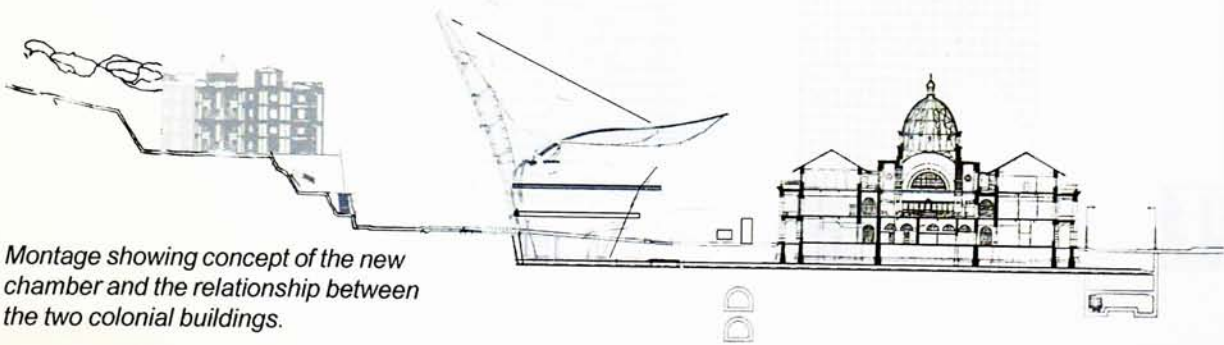
Complex edges acts as interaction space to the public



Public- Legislators Interaction became considered as the main aspect that the whole complex had to address when completed.



Lighting Concept
The architecture of the chamber would symbolise the dynamic and changing character

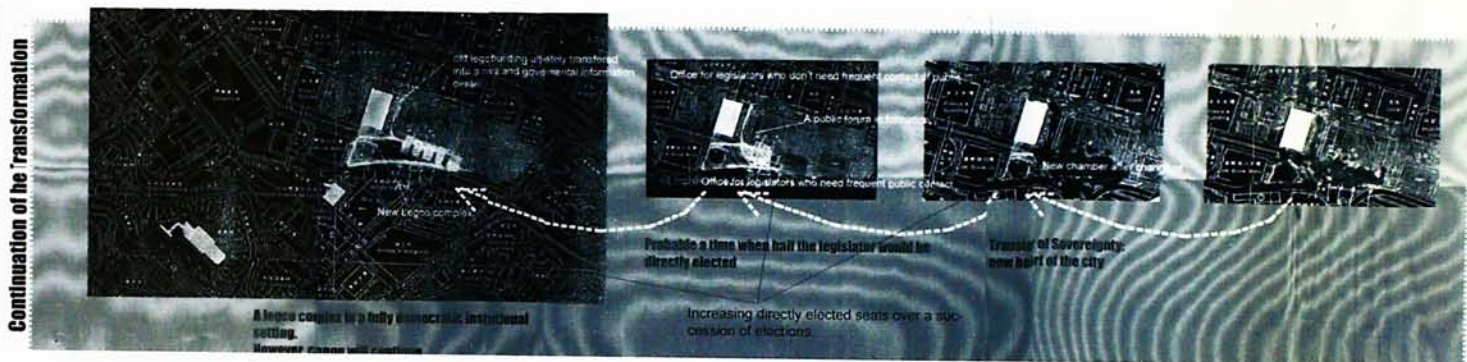


Montage showing concept of the new chamber and the relationship between the two colonial buildings.

mid Nov.- early
December, 1997

mid of November to early December saw an explosion of concepts and ideas which had dramatic impact to the whole design. Planning concept, urban connectivity, location of the chamber, concepts pretty blur earlier are finally made clear through different levels of exploration.

A variety of different activities as presented here after the project completed.



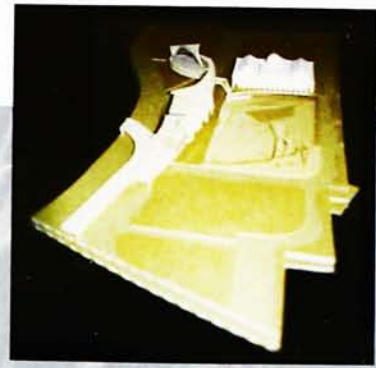
Evolving the architecture through transformation

This diagram shows very clearly how the complex relate and transform as the "bigger structure of the society". In terms of design concepts, the idea behind is to evolve the whole Legco complex through a sequence of transformation which reflects inner institutional change. **According to the progress of democratization, it gradually transfers the functions from the solid and enclosed old building to a transparent and open environment which facilitates public interaction.** The old Legco Building would ultimately turned into a News and Governmental Information Center thus totally open up to the public.

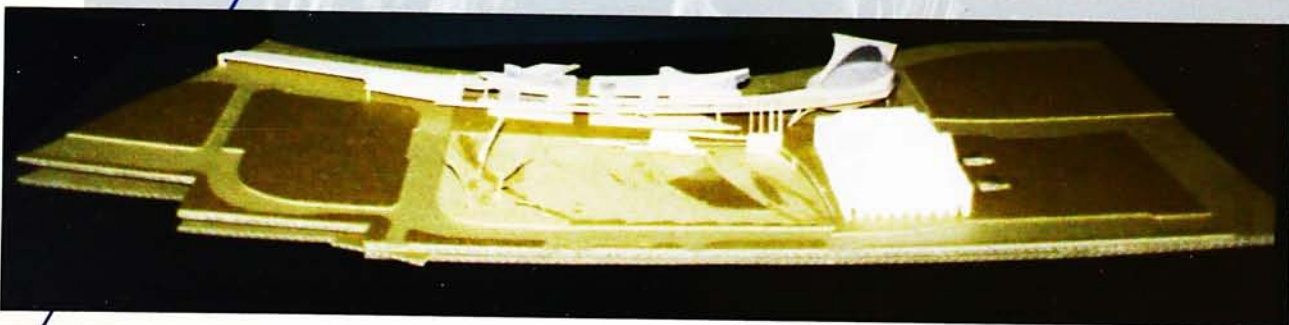
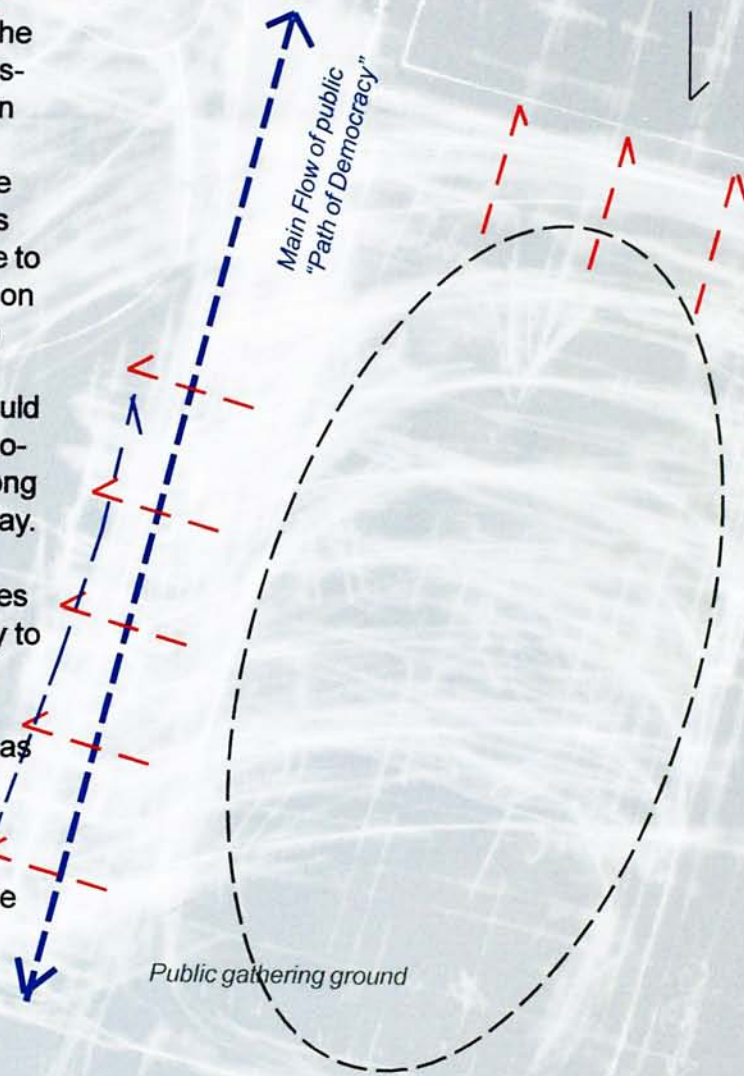


The complex was finally determined to be located on the southern edge of Charter Garden (with the Chamber on the old Bank of China Building Site) because of its formal integration with the concept of transformation. Other advantages of the site includes its relationship with Court of Final Appeal, its visibility to the rest of the city (this is esp. true to the chamber) and the relationship it creates with nearby open space.

Model showing building form and urban connectiveness.



An interesting concept developed around this time is the "**Path of Democracy**" which is actually the main ground level pedestrian connection between Charter Garden and Stature Square along the edge of the complex. As the complex will continue to develop along the direction of this path according to the progress of democratisation, one would actually witness the democratic development in Hong Kong through this walkway. The path would also enactivates many activities because of its adjacency to the ground level of the complex: political propoganda, exhibtions, as well as other leisure activities are all encouraged through its semi-in and out character with the building and the open space.



mid Dec.- early January,

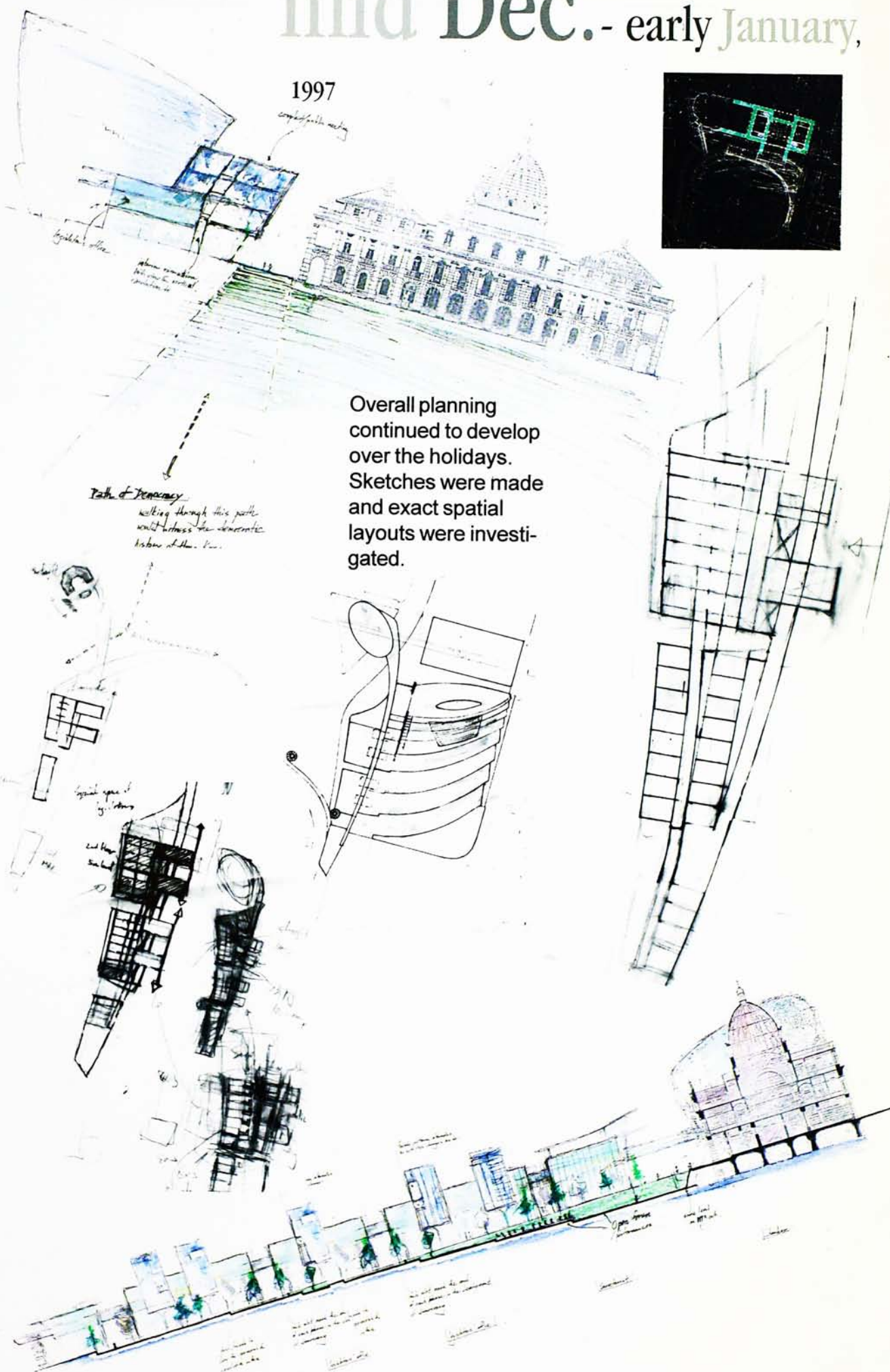
1997



Path of Democracy

walking through this path
would witness the democratic
labour of the poor.

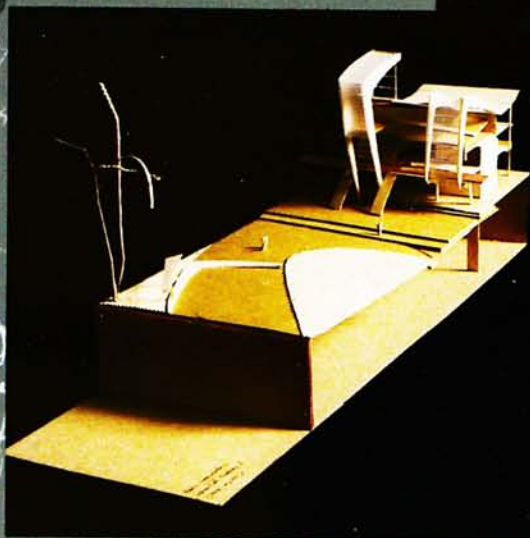
Overall planning continued to develop over the holidays. Sketches were made and exact spatial layouts were investigated.



Open



Effort was made this month in the study of the office wing portion, the interaction module, in which the legislators and the public can interact either formally and informally. Layers of private domains (or public domains) was made so that space can flow gradually from the more private portion of the legisla-



tors' office to the totally open public forum. In the middle of the intermediate space, several "floating" conference space, where legislators meet with the public, "flows" freely above the main circulation path to even further reinforce the merger of domain between the institution and the public.

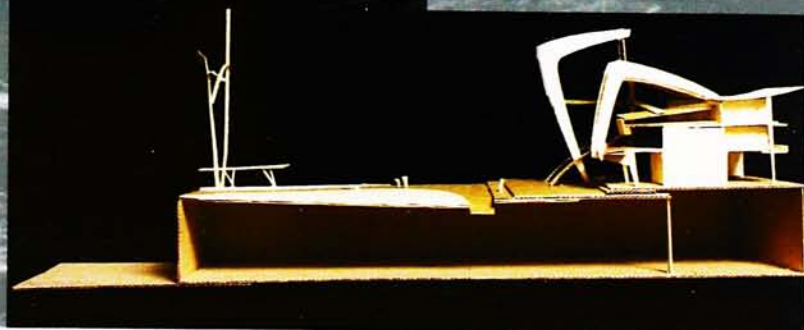
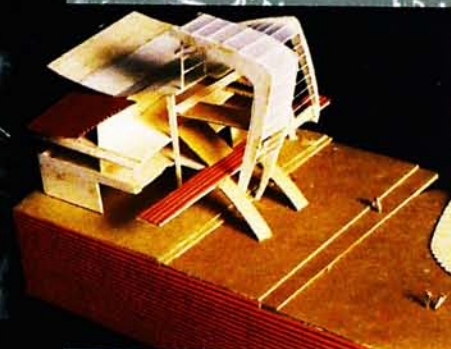
A parallel development was the fine-tuning of the overall complex design. Open restaurant and other semi-open public facilities were provided with connection across the southern part of the old Legco building. Priority of design focus was also being established for concentration in the following months.

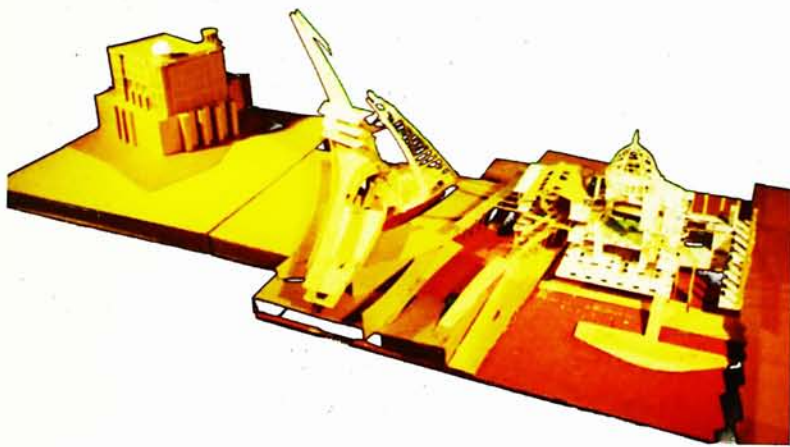
January

1998

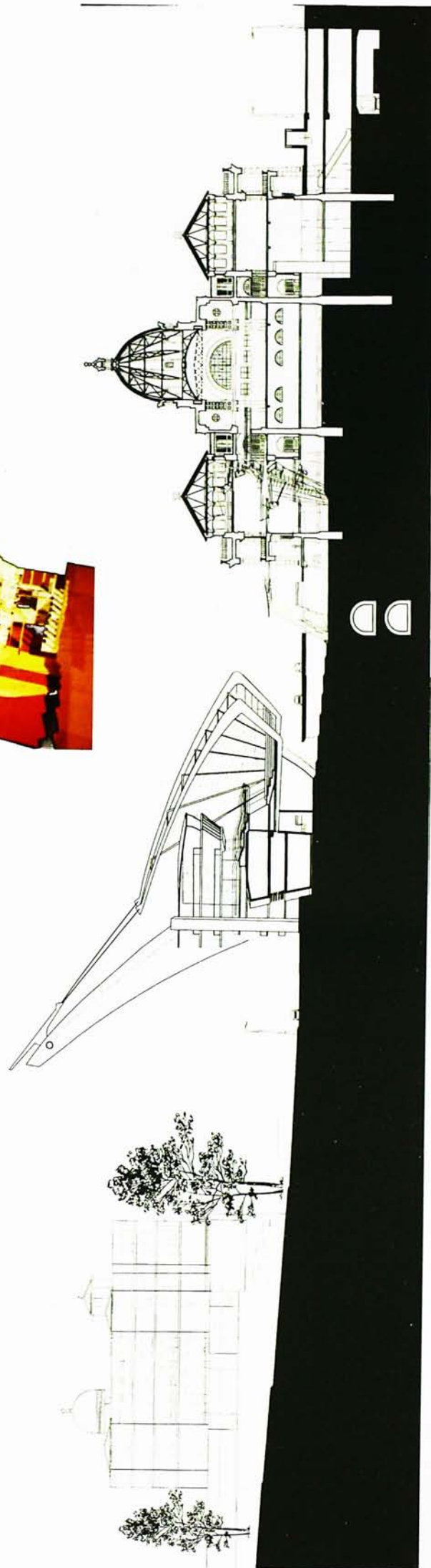
The layering of space between private and public is arranged as

- Legislators office —
- secretaries —
- internal corridor —
- lobby/ waiting area —
- external corridor (connected to upper-level pedestrian network) above are the **public-legislators' meeting space** —
- path of democracy (connected to Statue Square —
- Semi-open public facilities (e.g. open restaurant) —
- Public Forum





Section across Queen's Road showing the flows of underground space and pedestrian connections. *The concept of using pedestrians and movement of public to encourage casual interactions with the institution and to "democratise" the place has been constantly sought throughout the design process (see other pages).*



to Explore the relationship between the two colonial buildings and the three powers.

early Feb. - early

March

The site of the Chamber had always been controversial. Some critics still commented on whether it is appropriate to replace the old Bank of China Building even though it's location, being the site of the very first City Hall of Hong Kong, had a history of public-government interaction.

Formal gesture of the Chamber building is to brings out the relationship of the two colonial buildings which now seat the highest judicial and legislative powers of Hong Kong. A strong oblique structural element, in total contrast to the vertical language of the mechanical-feel Hong Kong Bank behind, acts to hang up the

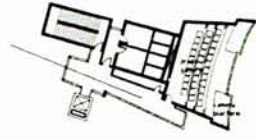
chamber and gives the whole building a recognizable language which would be needed for a building of its function. Transparency of the chamber, visual relationship to the old building and the Public Forum, as well as the underground connection of the whole building to the partially excavated Charter Garden and the underground MTR pedestrian network all add up to connect this island sited building to the rest of the city.



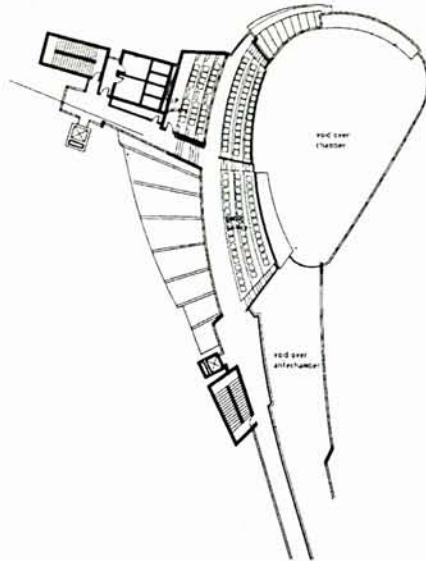
Press office level



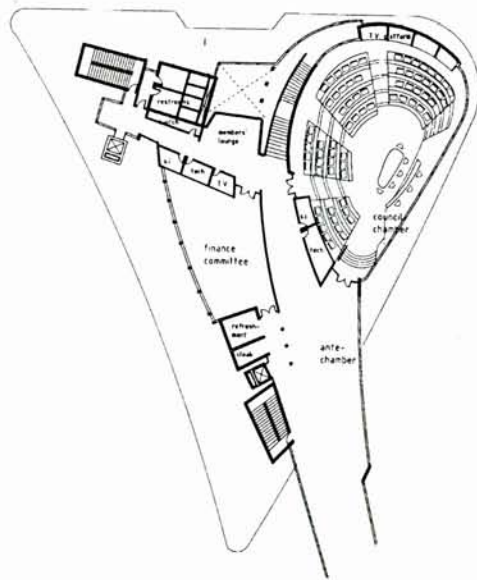
Press seating level



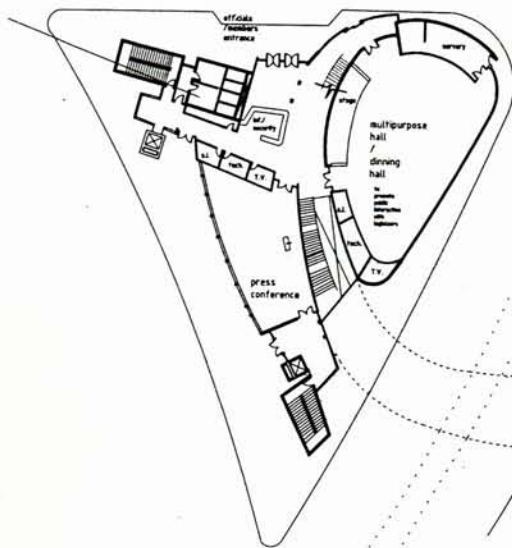
Public gallery level



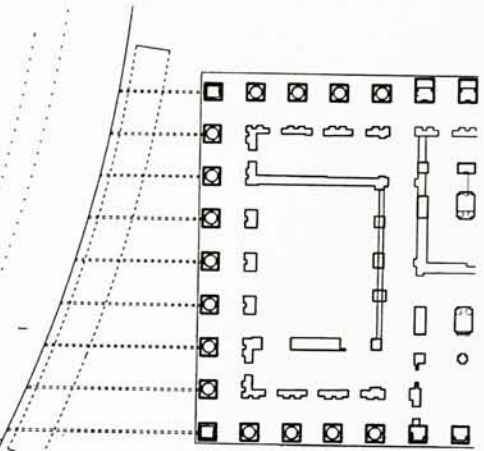
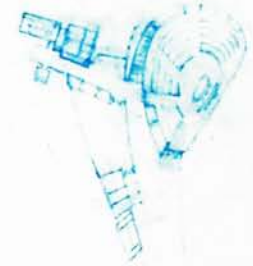
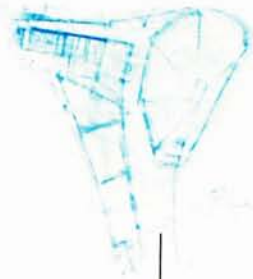
Chamber Level



Ground Level

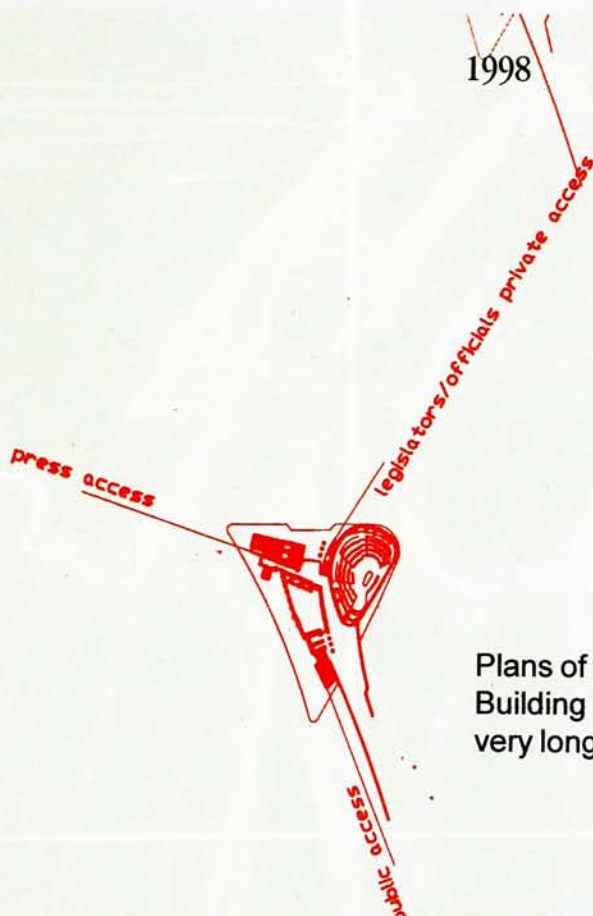


Evolution of the Chamber Building Plan



mid March,

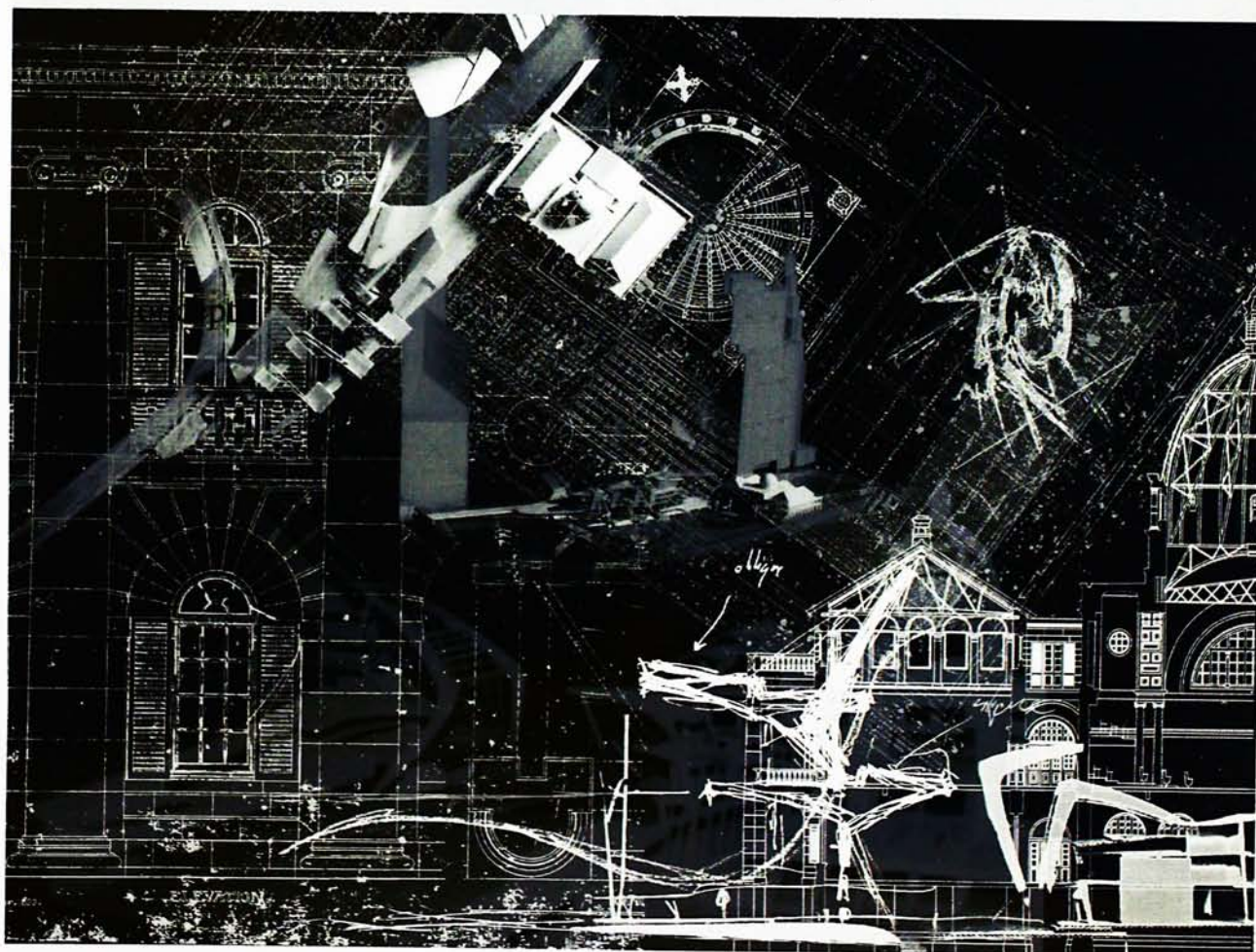
1998



Plans of the Chamber Building had taken a very long time to

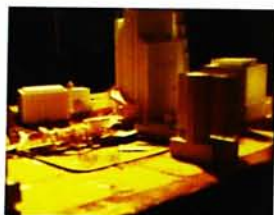
develop. The constraints of the triangular island site, flyover connection to the office wing, underground connection to charter garden and different accesses for legislators and public all required lengthy considerations. The most difficult part is to integrate all these considerations with a clear sense of articulation between important chamber/meeting space and other functional areas. Despite all these, the outcome was quite satisfactory.

Alpha submission: incorporated is the **complexity of thinking** behind the project.





Elevational view from Connaught Road.



View from North-eastern side.



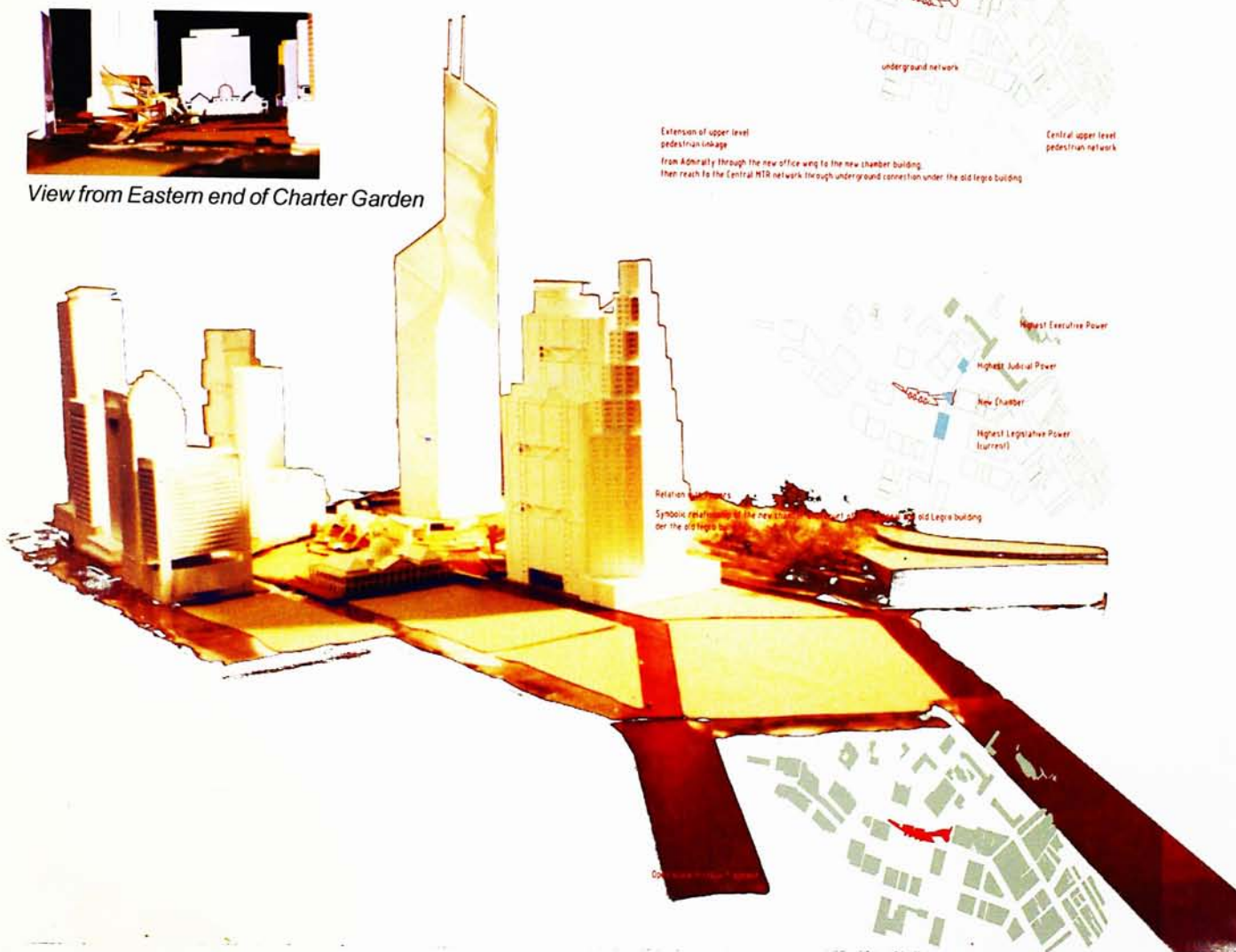
The Legco Complex from Admiralty



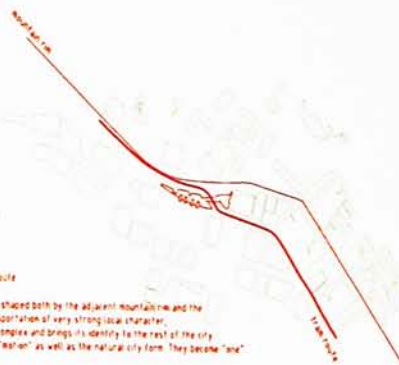
View from City Hall



View from Eastern end of Charter Garden



Analysis of the Site



Mountain Rise and Train Route

The new Legco complex is shaped both by the adjacent mountain rise and the train route. From a transportation of very strong local character, penetrates through the complex and brings its identity to the rest of the city. The complex follows the "motion" as well as the natural city form. They become "one".

Gradual change of grid from mountain level through the complex to retained urban fabric.

Admiralty upper level pedestrian network

underground network

Extension of upper level pedestrian linkage

from Admiralty through the new office wing to the new chamber building, then reach to the Central MTR network through underground connection under the old Legco building.

Central upper level pedestrian network

Highest Executive Power

Highest Judicial Power

New Chamber

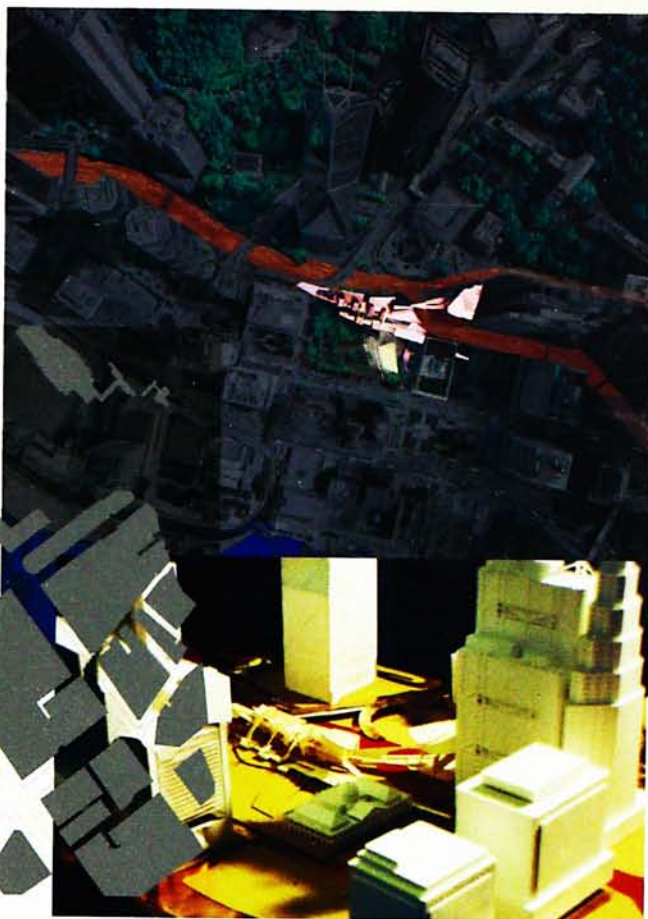
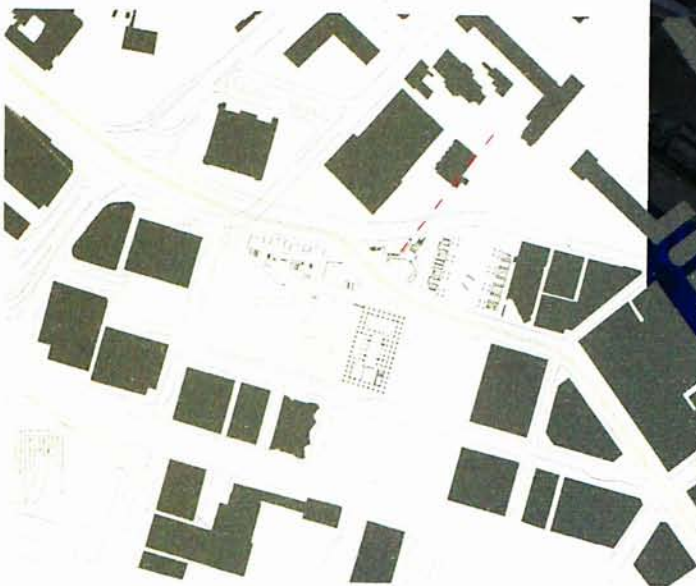
Highest Legislative Power (current)

Relation to existing

Synoptic relationship to the existing urban fabric and the old Legco building.

Old Legco building

Urban Concepts Dev. and Final Site Model



Molly plan of Central showing integration with urban open space.

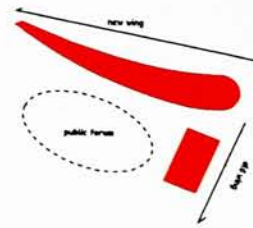
Though urban concept of "networking with existing fabric" (to connect with the MTR and Admiralty upper-level network) was more or less mature two months ago, this month saw an interesting extension of the same concept to the "**path of democracy**". On the upper-right corner montage, the red paths, **Queen Road Central and Des Voeux Road**, the two very important **arteries of Hong Kong**, merges with the complex and become the extension to the "path of democracy". The whole Legco complex, situated at the junction of the arteries, thus becomes the center of activities in the city. At some other times, they become the parade routes where citizens move towards to or away from the Legco complex.

Another parallel development this month was the ground level treatment with the urban space. The "partial Molly plan" on top shows the **integration and flow of urban space** and the complex.

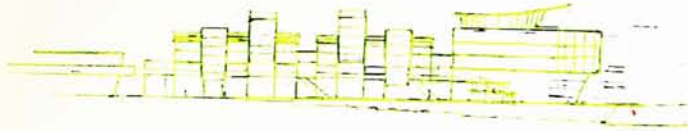


Diagrammatic analysis of the complex.

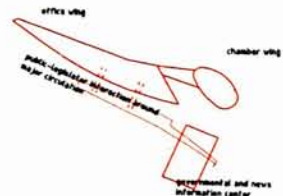
Fundamental Spatial Concept



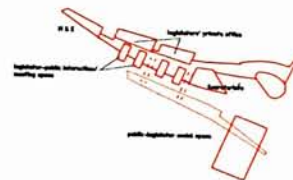
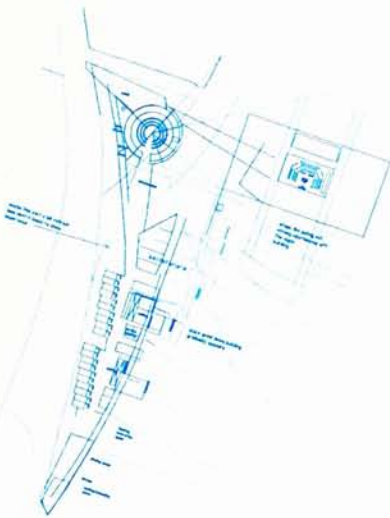
Public interaction with the complex



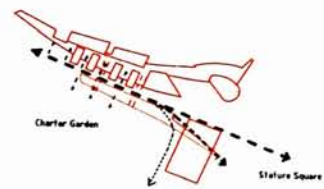
Main functional concept



Components of Legco Complex

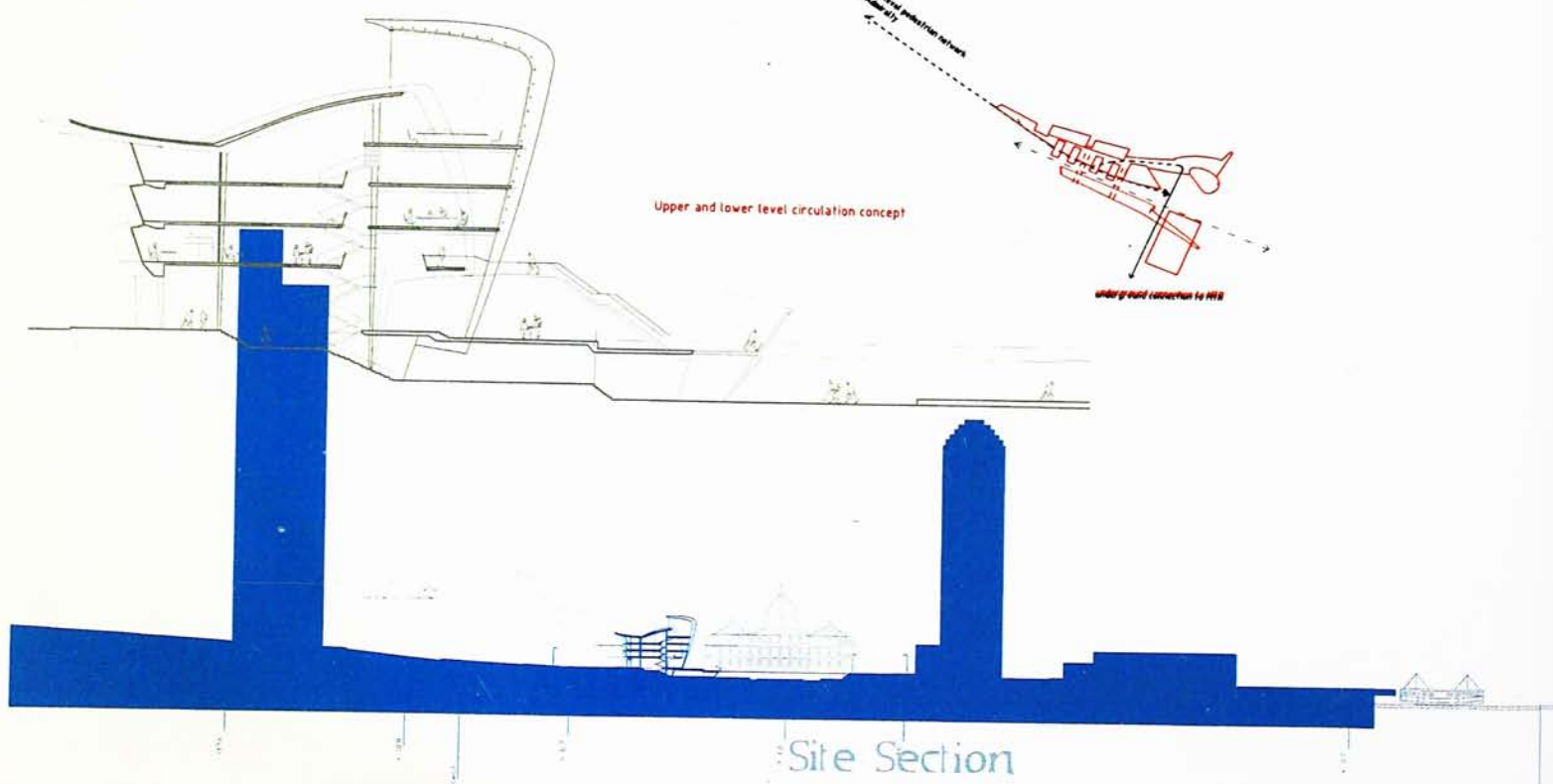
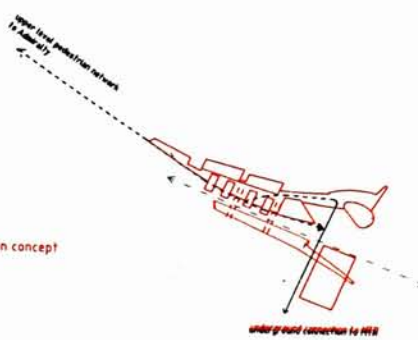


Ground level circulation concept



Earlier designs of the overall complex.

Upper and lower level circulation concept



Complex Overview

Late Mar. - Mid

April, 1998:

final Presentation

Comprehensive presentation works were underway. The March review was useful to help me to concentrate on a few good drawings rather than a lot of clumsy works. These drawings show urban connectivity and pedestrian flows in a building level. Visual relationship between the three buildings (the new chamber, the old building, and the old building) and the public forum was studied through the section on the right.

Phase one

Phase two

Phase Three

Public Forum

Governmental and New

Section across Charter Garden



Charter Seating



Main Concept Dev. & Final Model

In order to study and present the main spatial concepts (that of the new Chamber, the old Legco Building, and the spatial relationship between them). A large model in the scale of 1:100 was built at the end of March. Pluralism of activities: debates, exhibitions and information displays, etc. were shown through arrangement of people figures.



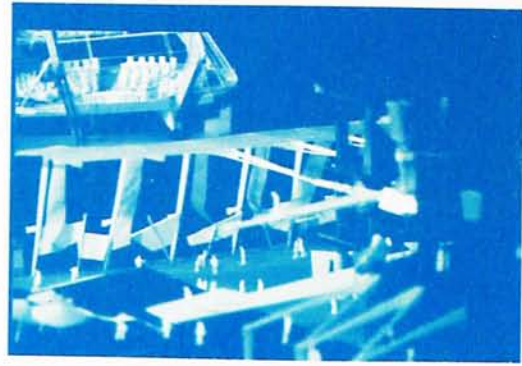
Main Underground Passage



Open Forum

The two buildings were cut through by different planes in three-dimensions to show their spatial characters and internal activities.

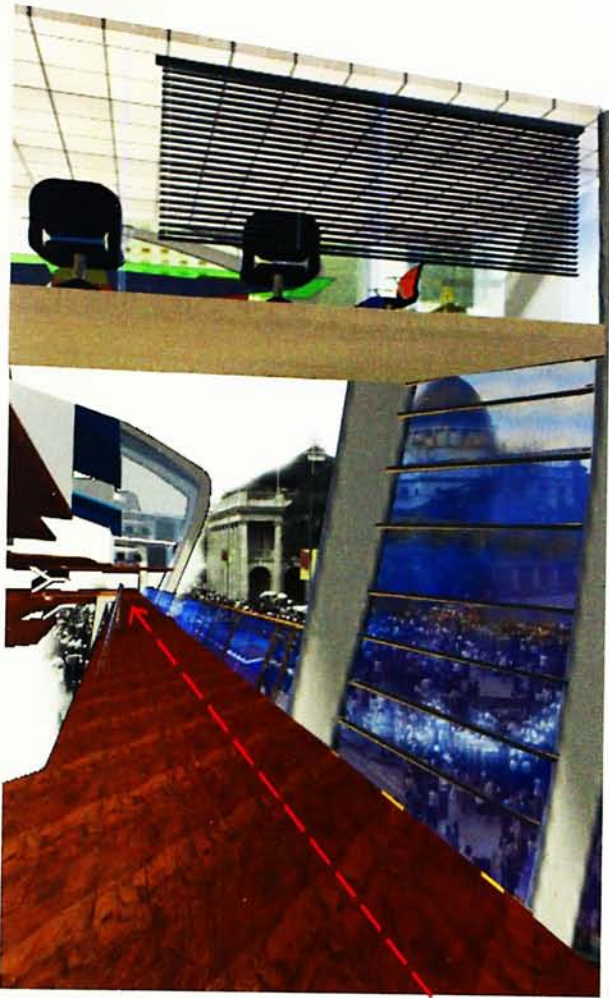




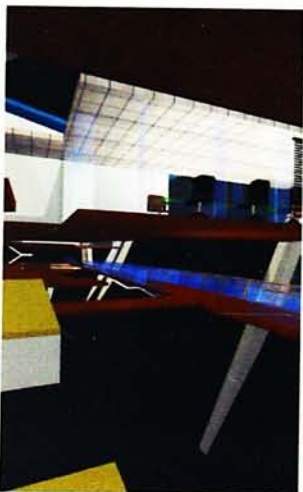
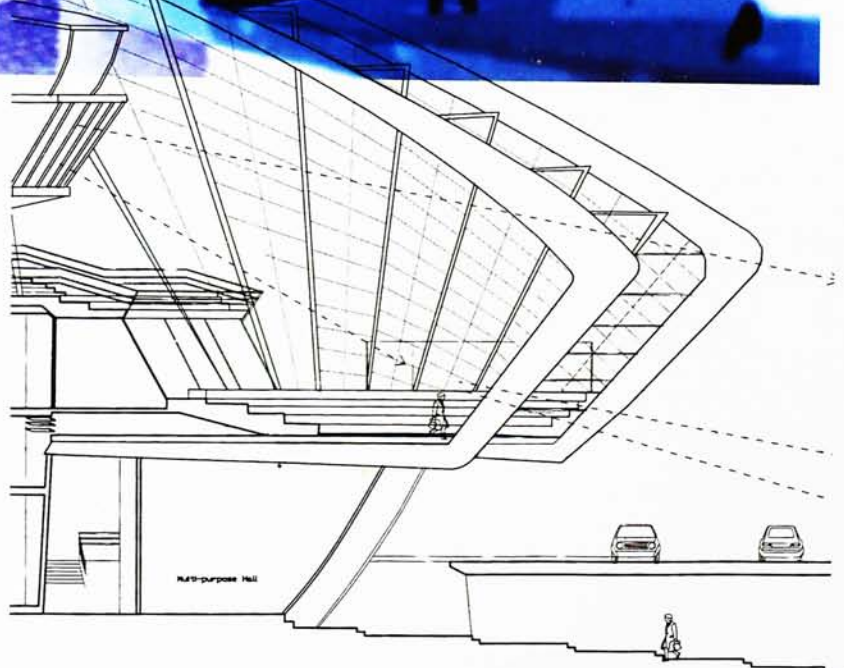
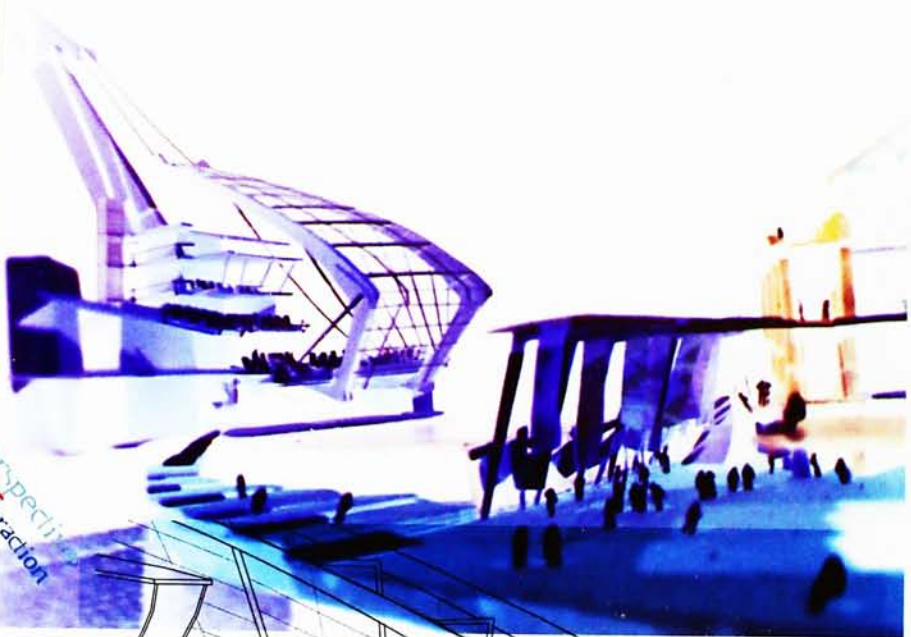
Public Route of the Interaction Module acts to blur the boundaries between the more open Public Forum down below and the Legislator office on the left.



The variety of Interior and Exterior Space



Public Path Perspective along the edge of interaction module showing accessibility and 'informality' of legislators' space, above is the meeting space of public and legislators.

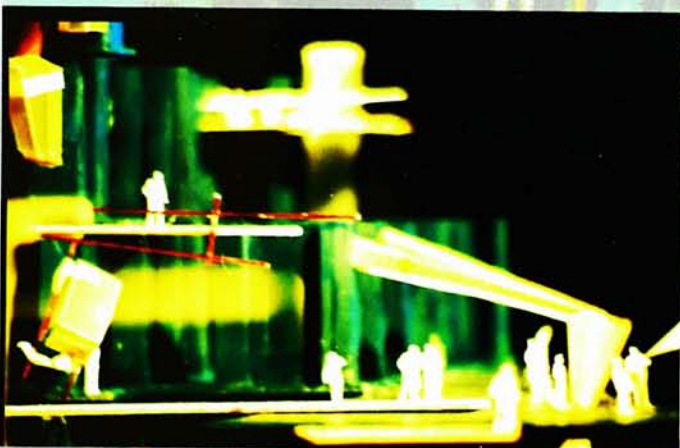


Interior and Exterior Space

mood of the space

Concepts of space

within the complex is to create a sense of flow which blurs the functional boundaries of exterior and interior, and that of public and the institution. Everything merges and flows together along the edges and interior space of the complex.



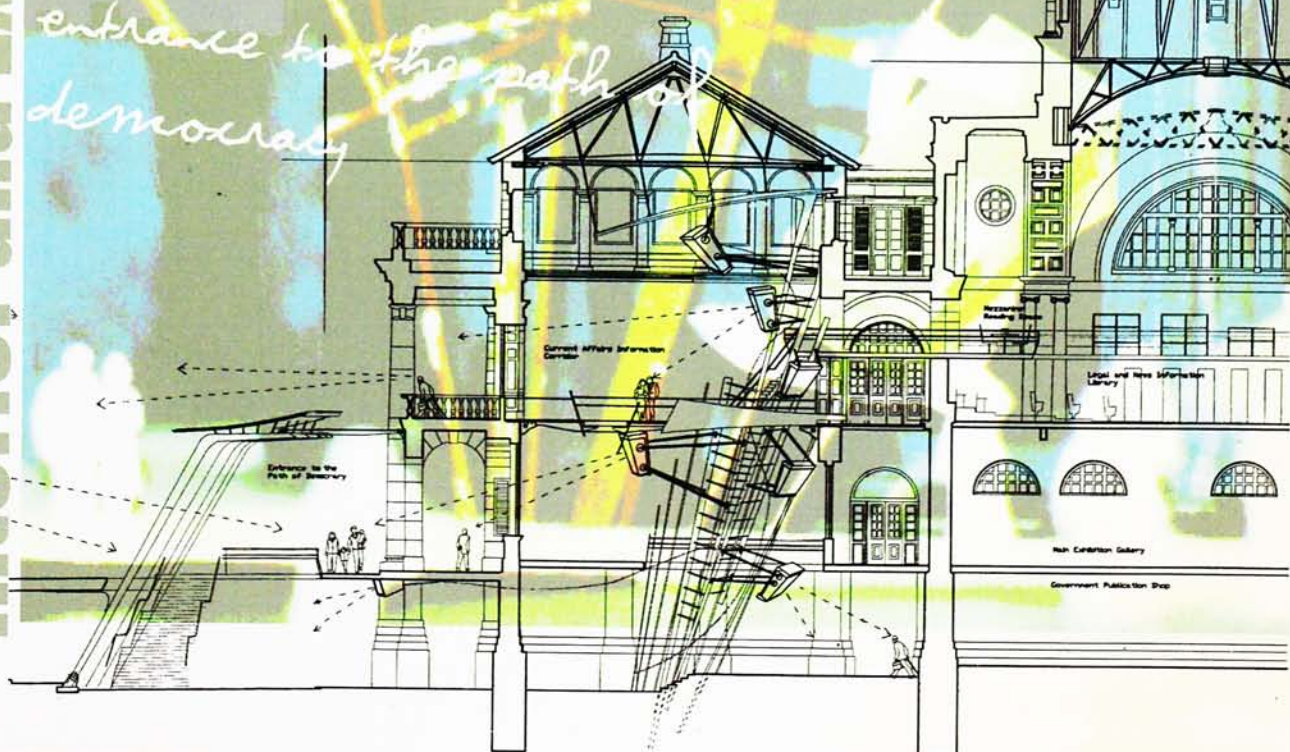
the entrance to the path of democracy is flush

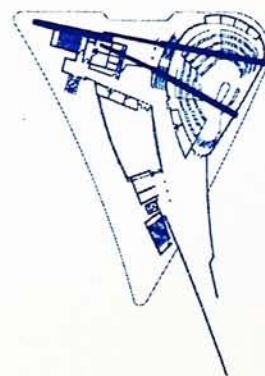
connection with the main space (chance) -

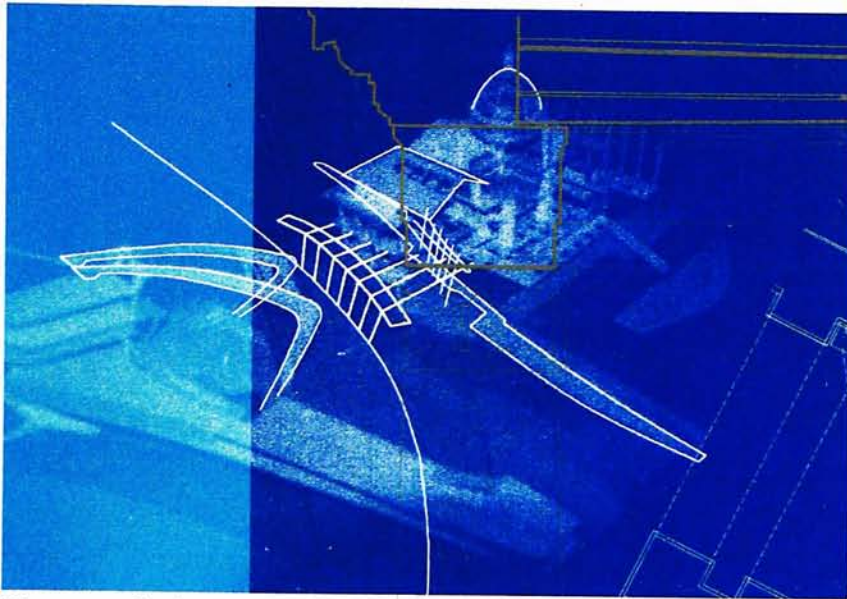
and connects to the main system and the main space the renovated and a lot of other cultural activities

, and a lot of other cultural activities just by passing through this junction public are being aroused by the concerns of the city at the moment and are prepared to engage themselves to the heavier activities in the public forum and the interaction module later along the path of democracy

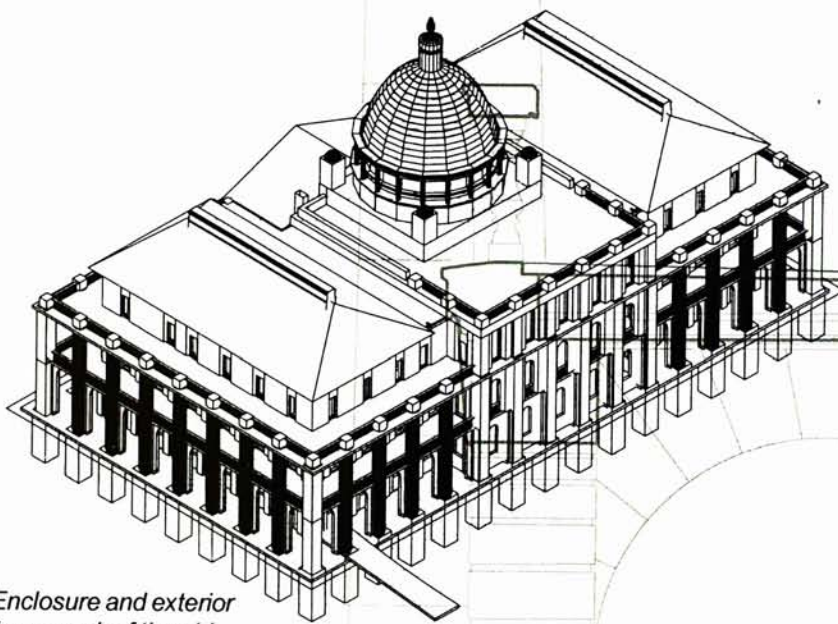
entrance to the path of democracy



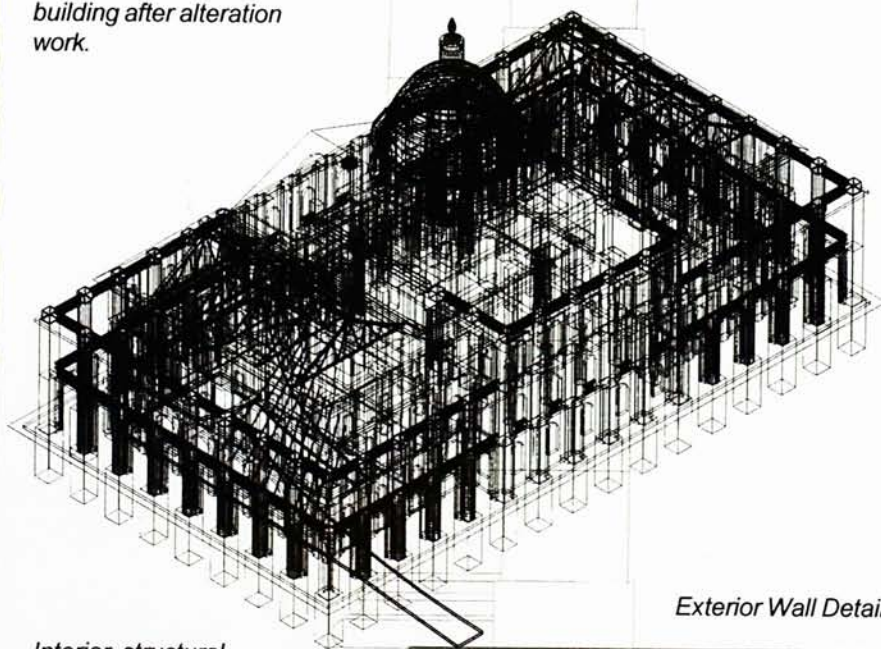




Diagrammatic structural outline of the new additon in the old Legco Building.



Enclosure and exterior framework of the old building after alteration work.

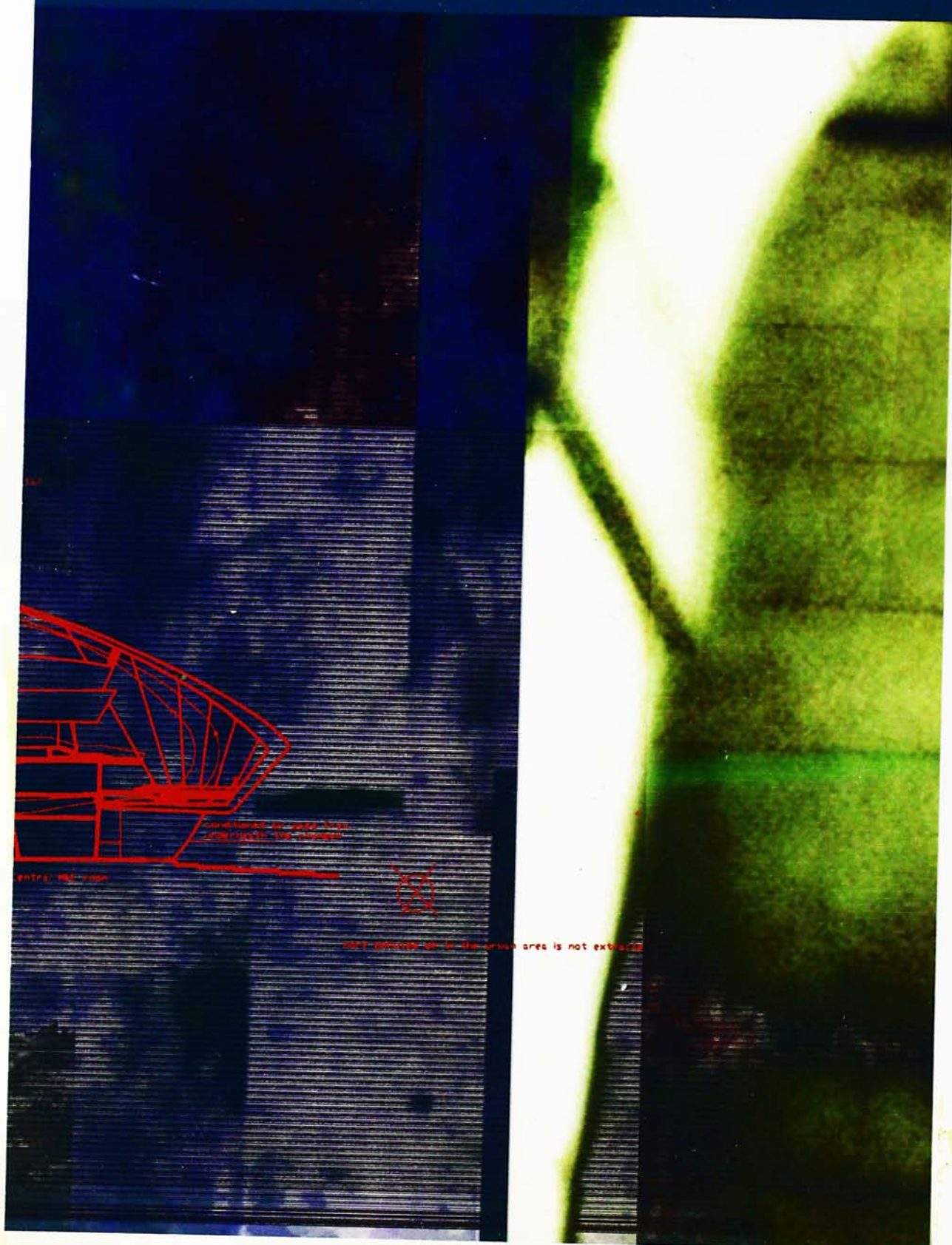
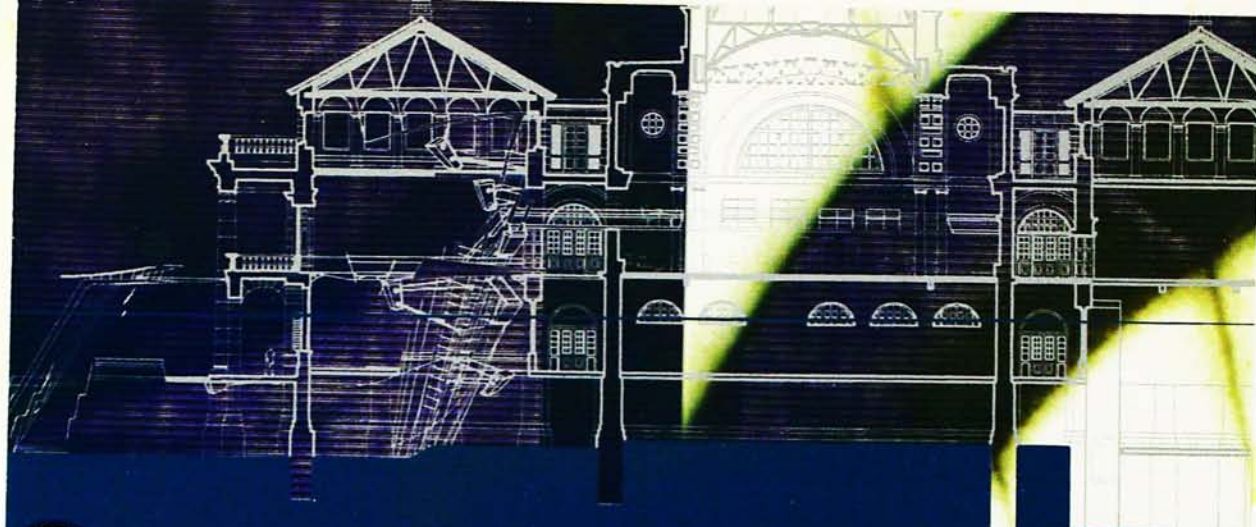


Interior structural framework of the old building after alteration work.

Exterior Wall Details of Legco Buiding

As previous developments, the final scheme carries the essence of a "connected" government through physical connections to the city network as well as through social interactions encouraged by layerings of public domains and transparency. The complex would continue to evolve itself as long as the society keep changing.....

Final Presentation Drawings Overview



Synopsis

The idea behind the thesis is to evolve an architecture through transformation which reflects inner institutional change.

Such transformation has already been started ever since the old Legco building has been built: from High Court at the turn of the century to its great renovation in the 60s and finally to current Legislative Council. This proposal is a continuation of the transformation process. According to the progress of democratization in the future, it gradually transfers the functions from the solid and enclosed old legislative council building to a transparent and open environment which facilitates public interaction. When fully developed, the new complex would be a delightful casual civic space amidst the open space in Central where the public, the legislators, the s... and the institution can fuse together. The old building would ultimately turn into a news and governmental information center totally open up to the p...

Evolving a civic architecture through transformation to reflect change in society

See Relationship Diagrams

path of democracy

social leisure members' office wing

secretariate

chamber wing

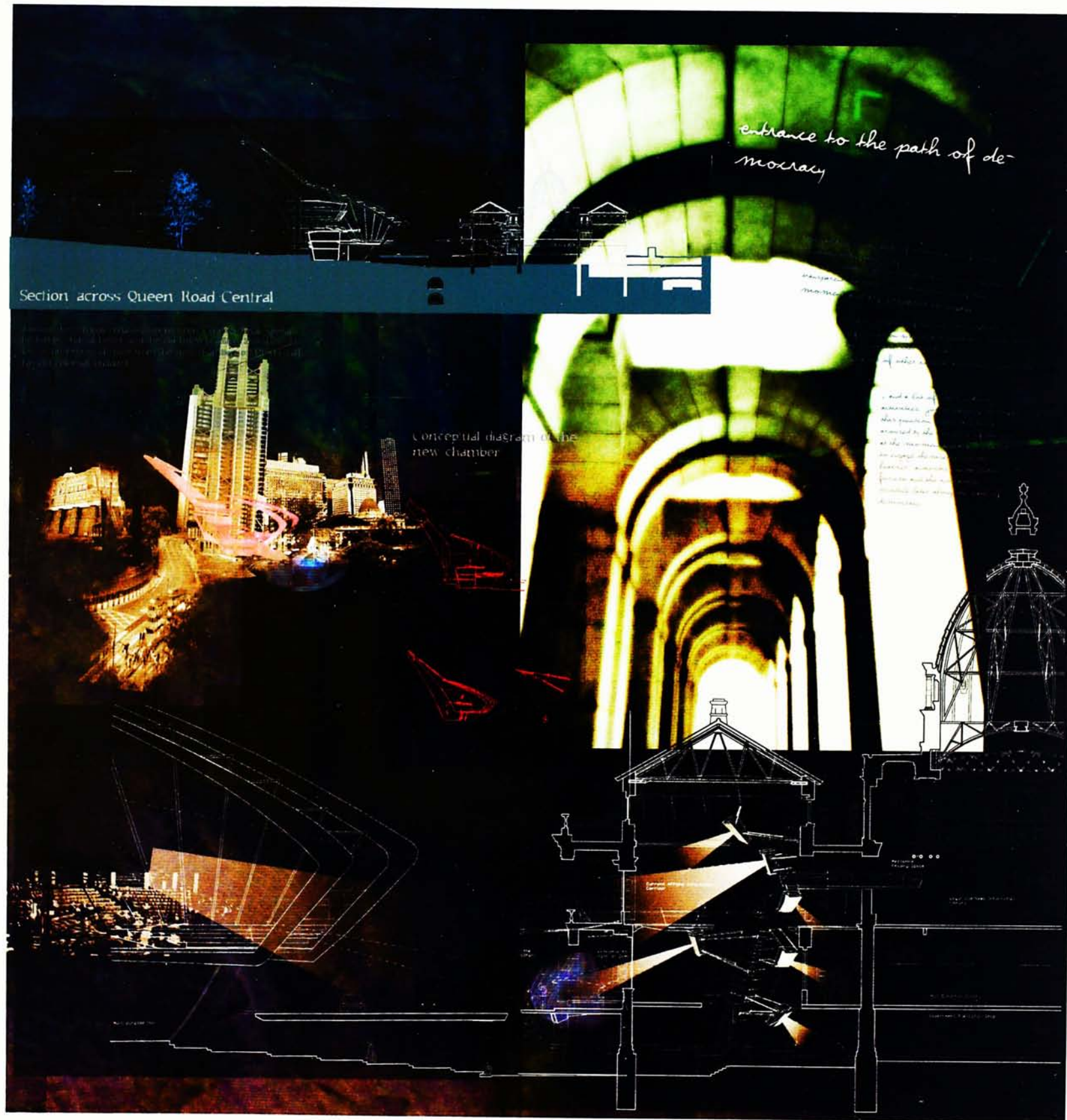
At the junction of life in the center of the city

interaction module
social interaction space
public space

Site section to sea level

Section across one of the interaction modules

Section across Queen Road Central

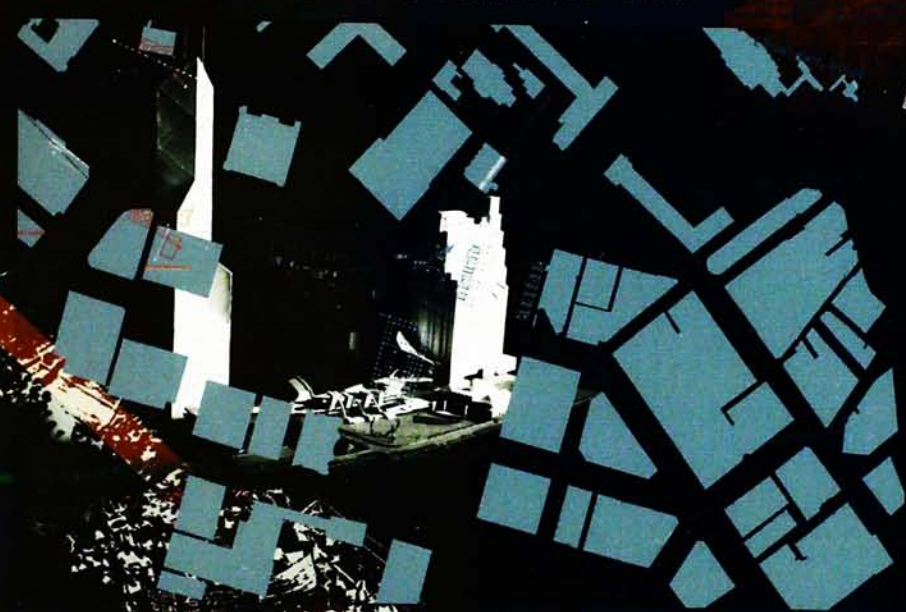


Complex Conceptual Diagrams



Public Hall Perspective

Plan of Interaction Module



A Partial Mollie Plan of Central

Plans of Chamber Wing

Section across Charter Garden
Showing overall complex concept

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Client: [illegible]
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Client: [illegible]
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